



SPEECHES

delivered by

HIS EXCELLENCY

Colonel the Right Hon'ble

Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

during

1927-28.

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*Address presented by the British Indian Association
on 2nd April 1927.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the members of the British Indian Association, representing landed and other vested interests in Bengal, beg most respectfully to offer Your Excellency and Lady Jackson our cordial welcome on your assumption of the high office of the Governor of this Presidency.

2. Our Association, which was founded in the year 1851, is the father of all such political institutions in India. During the last three quarters of a century, it has taken initiative in the introduction of many valuable measures. It has been the policy of this Association to approach all important public questions with due sense of responsibility and with proper regard to the views of Government and the people.

3. The majority of our members are conservatives in politics, but they realize that under the altered circumstances brought about by the Government of India Act of 1919, it is their duty to proceed on progressive lines and it is their privilege to help the political advancement of the country and to initiate measures for the amelioration of the condition of their countrymen, belonging to other sections of the community, with due regard to their own claims as can justly and properly be put forward before the Government and the awakening democracy of the present age.

4. Your Excellency, as Chairman of the Conservative Party in England, has contributed greatly

to the present position of the party, which with wide and patriotic outlook is trying to reconcile the clash of class interests with the larger interests of the nation. We hope and trust that with your great experience you will be able to help and guide us, members of an ancient and conservative race, to adapt ourselves to changing circumstances and to approach all questions with the same broad outlook as that of your great party. Apart from all other reasons it is for this that we welcome Your Excellency's advent amongst us as Governor of our province.

5. Imbued with the traditions of Harrow and Cambridge, belonging to a family, some of whose members have left their mark in the political history of their time, a soldier and a sportsman, Your Excellency inspires us with confidence that as a great organizer and, as such, a man of singular insight into human nature, you will approach all questions with the straightforwardness of a soldier and a sportsman, and the experience of a man of affairs; we hope therefore it will not be difficult for you to appreciate the view point of problems affecting another race and country.

6. We beg to assure Your Excellency of our whole-hearted co-operation in your attempt to advance the political cause of the country and for measures for the amelioration of its condition; but we trust at the same time that Your Excellency as the head of the Government will recognize the claims of the class that we have the honour to represent. We hope that we shall be able to count upon Your Excellency's sympathy and support in protecting the rights and privileges that have been

granted to us by the Permanent Settlement (Regulation I of 1793).

7. We also trust during the revision of the Reforms by the Royal Commission, 1929, or earlier, Your Excellency will sympathize with our claim for larger representation of the Bengal Landholders in the Legislatures, commensurate with their undoubtedly great interests in the province.

8. In conclusion, we beg leave to convey to Your Excellency our assurances of unswerving loyalty and attachment to the throne and person of our beloved Sovereign. We sincerely hope that by your wise administration, as head of the province, and by the inauguration of a sympathetic policy you will succeed in creating an atmosphere of goodwill and good-fellowship between your great country and our ancient land. We fervently pray that Your Excellency's administration may be beneficial to the people of this country and that your term of office be one of unqualified success and may Your Excellency enjoy with Lady Jackson all prosperity and happiness.

***His Excellency's Reply to the British
Indian Association Address on 2nd
April 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for your address and for the cordial welcome you have so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself. I note with interest that the majority of your members are conservatives in politics. By tradition and choice I have been a member of the Conservative Party in the British Parliament. I am pleased, however, to see from your address, that the members of your Association have observed that the Conservative Party, without any sacrifice of principle, has shown its adaptability to the demands of progress, and by responding to the evolution of democratic ideals, has gained the confidence of the people and preserved its solidarity. This, I think, is largely due to a capacity for breadth of vision, which any party must possess to ensure success, and I venture to express the hope that the members of your Association may be able to take a broad and sympathetic view of the problems of Tenancy Legislation or any legislation, which aims at improving the agricultural efficiency of the raiyat and thereby assisting towards his prosperity and contentment.

I much appreciate the assurance of your co-operation and good-will in the task I have before me, and you may be assured that I shall watch with care and sympathy the claims of those whose interests you represent. It is desirable that the landholders in Bengal should be justly

represented in the Legislatures. With your peculiar local advantages, it would appear that you should be able to secure substantial representation by way of election in general constituencies, and I suggest that you should make every effort in this direction. Your loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of our beloved Sovereign is, I know, beyond question. With you I hope that my administration may be so conducted as to create that feeling of good-will and good-fellowship between India and all the partners of our great Empire, which is of vital necessity, if the best interests of all are to be served.

Gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for your address and for the kind welcome you have given us to-day.

*Address presented by the European Association of
Bengal on 2nd April 1927.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

On behalf of the non-official European Community whose interests the European Association was founded to represent and protect, and especially on behalf of those who are resident in Calcutta and Bengal, we desire to take this opportunity of welcoming you to Calcutta to occupy the high position of Governor of Bengal.

2. The Branches of this Association in Bengal represent a varied and extensive constituency. The members of these Branches are drawn from the large European population of this Presidency, including very many engaged in Mining and in the working of Factories and otherwise in the development of India's industrial wealth. Many make India their home and represent several generations of labour here.

3. This opportunity is taken of setting forth the aims of this Association, namely,—

The maintenance by all constitutional means of the rights of the British community in India.

The protection of British minorities throughout India from aggression, racial or otherwise.

Practical sympathy with the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Community in their political aspirations, and the fostering of a relationship of cordiality and co-operation with those Indians who are working constructively for the good of India.

4. The members of this Association are deeply interested in the welfare of India, and are anxious for the political and social development of the country on the basis of the orderly evolution of self-governing institutions, for they believe that it is in close co-operation with all loyal Indians that the best interests of the members of this Association lie.

5. During Your Excellency's term of office the political history of the past few years will come under review by a Royal Commission. We have always urged the need for caution in such vital questions as constitutional changes, but we have not failed to notice with satisfaction the ground which has been gained recently by the loyal and sane elements as compared with the less responsible Indian politicians.

6. We are particularly happy in having this early opportunity of meeting Your Excellency, for the execution of our duties brings us much into touch with your Government.

7. The Government of Bengal recognizes this Association as one of the Public Bodies whose opinions should be consulted on measures under consideration, and it is our constant endeavour, whilst frankly criticizing the action of Your Excellency's Government, to give that assistance which the European community can afford to the Government; also to promote to the best of our ability the advancement of the Indian Empire, and to foster a spirit of loyalty to the Crown.

8. It is in the sincere hope that Your Excellency's term of office in this Province will be a happy one and that Your Excellency may be afforded health and strength to perform the arduous duties of your high office.

His Excellency's Reply to the European Association Address on 2nd April 1927.

GENTLEMEN,

I am sincerely grateful for the welcome you have so kindly extended to me on coming to Calcutta to take up my duties as Governor of this Presidency. I have read your address with care and interest and it is particularly gratifying to receive from your Association, representing, as you do, so many varied and important interests in Bengal, the assurance of your co-operation and good-will. The aims of your Association, as enumerated in your address are in all respects most worthy and admirable. Your desire for the political and social development of this great country, based upon an orderly evolution of self-governing institutions, and your expressed belief that by co-operation with all loyal Indians this end can best be assured, shows the sincerity of your interest in the welfare of India, which I know will be welcomed by all Indians equally interested. I especially appreciate the hopeful outlook you are able to take as regards the political future in Bengal. Your belief that the loyal and more rational elements in political life in Bengal are beginning to make their views understood and acceptable to the people, and that subversive, irreconcilable obstruction is proving a failure, coincides with the views of all men of sound judgment and discretion. I shall at all times welcome your advice and I shall not fail to consult your Association upon matters which in any way affect your interests.

I shall enter on my period of office fortified by the assurance of your sympathy and good wishes.

Address presented by the Members of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, on 2nd April 1927.

We, the Members of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, beg leave to approach Your Excellency on the assumption by you of the office of the Governor of Bengal to offer our most hearty and cordial welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Jackson.

2. Our city though deprived of the privilege of being capital of British India is proud of being able to maintain her position as the second city of the British Empire as her pre-eminence is undoubtedly due to her activities in trade and commerce.

3. Your Excellency is assuming the reins of office at a very important period in the eventful history of this ancient land. India, like the other countries of the world, is slowly emerging from the gloom of depression due to post-bellum conditions and the signs of the approach of a new era of peace and prosperity are already manifesting themselves. A policy of discriminating preference is being adopted by the Government with a view to foster the nascent industries so that India may not have to depend on other countries for the manufacture of products from the immense supply of her raw materials. We trust Your Excellency will, at this critical period of reconstruction, take a keen interest in the commercial and industrial progress of the province the guidance of the destiny of which has been committed to Your Excellency's care by His Majesty the King-Emperor, and we fervently hope

Your Excellency's best endeavour would be to promote the interest of the sons of the soil by opening for them new avenues of industry and securing greater facilities in trade and commerce.

4. The Statutory Commission which will be appointed to examine the reforms will finish its labours during the period of Your Excellency's administration and as the influence of politics on commerce is very great, we are perfectly sure Your Excellency will take proper steps to give commerce an adequate representation in the Legislature. As the premier Indian Chamber of Commerce in Bengal, we hope Your Excellency will kindly help us in our attempt to secure our due share of representation in the Legislative Assembly and the provincial Legislative Council.

5. As a soldier and sportsman and above all as the Chairman of a great political party in England, Your Excellency has given proof of your power of organization. That power is necessary in Bengal to-day to organize the resources of the province with a view to build up a hopeful future for our people.

6. We welcome Your Excellency, confident in our belief that you come here with the straightforwardness of a soldier, spirit of a sportsman and the heart of a genuine sympathizer for the purpose of doing all that you can without prejudice or fear, in the interests of Bengal.

7. We pray that Your Excellency's administration may secure in an increasing measure prosperity and contentment to the people of the province and that Your Excellency and Lady Jackson may enjoy peace and happiness during your stay in Bengal.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Bengal
National Chamber of Commerce Address
on 2nd April 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to thank you for your address and I am sincerely grateful for the cordial welcome you have so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself on our arrival in Calcutta to take up my duties as Governor of Bengal. I am specially pleased that one of the first addresses I have the privilege to receive should come from such an important and influential body as the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. For many years I was closely associated with important business interests in England and I can, therefore, to some extent, appreciate your anxieties and difficulties. You can be assured that the business and commercial interests of the Presidency will always receive careful and sympathetic consideration from me. The members of your Chamber are, I believe, all directly interested in the business and commercial life of this great city and of Bengal, and I have observed with pleasure the progressive increase in the number of industrial undertakings which are financed and directed by Indian enterprise. I shall encourage any efforts which would appear to offer reasonable opportunities for satisfactory employment to the people of Bengal. Experience has, however, taught me to believe that successful industrial development is more likely to accrue through personal enterprise and willing co-operation than by depending too much upon tariffs and Government interference.

I am satisfied that the interests of the Presidency can best be served by fair and adequate representation of business and commercial interests in the Legislative Assembly and in the Provincial Councils. In any reconstruction which might arise in the future, you may be assured that fair representation of your interests will be most carefully watched.

I appreciate your kind references to my activities in the fields of sport and politics. I am not without hope that the experience I have gained there may prove of assistance to me in my work in Bengal. Again, I thank you for your address and for your kindly welcome to Lady Jackson and myself.

Address presented by the Bengal Landholders' Association on 2nd April 1927.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We beg to approach Your Excellency and Lady Jackson with this humble address of welcome to our Presidency on Your Excellency's assuming the reins of Government.

2. We appreciate Your Excellency's spirit of devotion to the cause of the Empire which has prompted you to subordinate your prospects in home politics to the call of His Imperial Majesty and to shoulder enormous responsibilities in this country..

3. In this connection it is appropriate to mention that the bed-rock of our position as landholders is the Permanent Settlement which has contributed in a large measure to the prosperity of Bengal. But certain disruptive forces have been at work in recent times which aim at the abolition of the system. We are confident that Your Excellency will not lend countenance to any measure that tends to undermine the prestige, influence and prosperity of landholders of Bengal.

4. We pray to God that Your Excellencies' stay here may be attended with happiness and glory.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Bengal
Landholders' Association Address on
2nd April 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful for your address and on behalf of Lady Jackson and myself I thank you for your kind welcome to Bengal. I am glad of the opportunity, which has been afforded me of service for the Empire and I shall endeavour successfully to carry the responsibilities of my office which I know will be onerous and difficult. I am aware of the influence and importance of the landholders within the Presidency of Bengal. Your responsibilities are also great. By far the greatest proportion of the inhabitants of the Presidency depend for their livelihood upon the land. Upon the prosperity of agriculture depend their life and contentment. This prosperity can be helped to the extent of the interest you are prepared to take in the proper development of agriculture. The interests of both zamindars and raiyats are dependent one upon the other. By considering and helping the lot of the raiyat you will be at the same time helping yourselves. I note that you express some anxiety as regards "The Permanent Settlement." In these days of progressive political thought it is possible that reconsideration of the permanent settlement may be from time to time suggested. But as long as "Land Revenue" remains a "reserved subject" and the permanent settlement is not proved to be

inimical to the best interests of the State, you may rest assured that my Government will not look with approval upon interference with a statutory arrangement sanctioned by the lapse of years and inextricably bound up with economic conditions and judicial practice.

Again, I thank you for your address and kind wishes for our happiness and success which we greatly appreciate.

*Address presented by the Muhammadan Literary
Society on 9th April 1927.**

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the members of the Muhammadan Literary Society of Calcutta, on behalf of ourselves and the Muhammadan Community of Bengal whom we have the honour to represent, beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson a very cordial, sincere and respectful welcome to this city of Calcutta and the province of Bengal.

2. The Muhammadan Literary Society, which is the parent of similar organizations throughout the country, was founded so long ago as the year 1863 by the late Nawab Bahadur Abdul Lateef, C.I.E., with a view to co-ordinate the activities of the public-spirited and politically-minded members of the community along well-ordered channels of progress and development, as also to interpret the policy of our rulers regarding administrative measures truly and correctly to the people. Throughout its long career, the Society has always thrown the full weight of its influence on the side of law and order, and we venture to assure Your Excellency that our humble services will always be at Your Excellency's disposal in bringing about and maintaining the most peaceful and cordial relations not merely between the rulers and ruled, but also between the various communities placed under Your Excellency's charge in this province.

3. The entire Muhammadan community of Bengal owes a deep debt of gratitude to Your Excellency's predecessor for the efforts made by his Government for the promotion of Moslem education in this province by the establishment of the

Islamia College. We trust that our community will have no less reason to be grateful to Your Excellency for continuing the work begun by Your Excellency's predecessor. In this connection we would bring to Your Excellency's notice that the Islamia College as well as the Calcutta Madrasah is at present handicapped by the want of a play ground, the need for which is keenly felt by the students of these institutions. We hope and trust that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to provide at an early date a sufficiently large play ground for the students of the Islamia College and the Calcutta Madrasah.

4. While thanking the Government for appointing a Muhammadan educationist as the Principal of the Calcutta Madrasah to the great satisfaction of our community, we beg to be permitted to bring to Your Excellency's notice that a committee was appointed by the Government of Bengal as early as 1921 to devise ways and means for the improvement of the Calcutta Madrasah and we would urge the imperative need of remodelling it as early as possible on the lines of the committee's recommendations so as to make the institution a centre of Islamic culture. We would also urge the desirability of opening in the Anglo-Persian Department of the Madrasah parallel sections for Urdu and Bengali, both of which are regarded as the vernaculars of the Mussalmans of Bengal, but we feel that it is not possible to make such provision for want of accommodation. A project for the provision of a suitable building for the Moslem Institute, now situated in the grounds of the Calcutta Madrasah, has already been sanctioned and we would respectfully

urge the pressing need of allotting funds for the purpose without further delay, which would help to give more accommodation to the Calcutta Madrasah.

5. The University of Calcutta as the premier University in Bengal exercises a great influence over the educational activities of the province, but it has not achieved the success desired in advancing the cause of Moslem education. We would, therefore, urge that provision should be made for adequate representation of Muhammadan educationists on the University in its various departments.

6. The existing system of recruitment to the higher Judicial and Educational Services of Government by pure literary competitive tests has resulted in keeping out the Muhammadans from entering those services in sufficient number. It is now generally recognized that there should be an adequate representation of Muhammadans in the Public Services where, apart from their specific duties into which communalism will not enter, they can from their position exercise an influence for the betterment of their community generally. We would respectfully urge that Muhammadans, who are of proved merit and ability, should be appointed to these services in increasing numbers commensurate with their numbers in the province.

7. In conclusion, we would assure Your Excellency of the loyal co-operation of all Moslems in Bengal; and would respectfully hope that Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson may have an increasing period of prosperity in the province whose fair fame was unrivalled in the past and which will yet achieve what it accomplished in the days gone by.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Muhammadan
Literary Society Address on 9th April
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to the members of the Muhammadan Literary Society in Calcutta for the cordial welcome they have so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself on our arrival in this city. I have read your address with much interest. It appears to me that you could do no better service to-day than by endeavouring to direct the members of your community along well-ordered paths towards progress and development and enabling them to interpret correctly and fairly the administrative proposals and policy of Government. I greatly appreciate the assurance of your assistance in any endeavours I may make to deal fairly and without prejudice with the many problems at present awaiting solution in Bengal. I am very glad to note the generous expression of appreciation of the efforts of my predecessor, Lord Lytton, on behalf of the educational facilities of your community and I shall do what I can to assure the continuance of his good work.

You mention that you feel the want of a suitable playground in connection with the Islamia College and the Madrasa. I think you may feel that in this respect you have my sympathy. I am glad to hear that a scheme has been prepared and has received administrative approval to provide a playground for the students of the Madrasa and the

Islamia College. I will see what I can do to induce Government to consider the matter as one of urgency.

I am informed that the scheme for remodelling the Madrassa is before Government and it is hoped that this scheme will be completed in the course of the next few months. I am glad to hear also that a scheme for the building of a Moslem Institute has been prepared and has received administrative approval. I feel the general interests of the Presidency will be served by adequate representation of Muhammadans in the public services. Efficiency, however, cannot be sacrificed to personal or private interests, but I feel sure that the members of the community of proved merit and ability should be able to find a fair share of places in the public service.

Address presented by the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, Bengal, on 9th April 1927.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

On the occasion of your assumption of the high office of Governor of Bengal, we, the President, Vice-President and Members of the Council of the Bengal Provincial Branch of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association, All-India and Burma, beg leave to approach you on behalf of the community we represent and to offer to you and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson our cordial welcome and hearty greetings.

2. We are not unmindful of the fact that before you lie strenuous times and arduous duties, but we are certain that in all your undertakings you will bring into play a winning and sympathetic personality and the exercise of those virtues and abilities which have endeared you to many and which, we are confident, will leave their lasting impression on the minds and hearts of the people of Bengal.

3. We are a minority community, and as such have our own trials and difficulties. Our greatest need is education, general and technical. European education in India we hope will be made a Central reserved subject. In the Indianisation of the services we claim our share and in the agricultural developments now in contemplation we hope we will not be forgotten. We crave Your Excellency's kind consideration and support in these and in all our efforts of self-help and self-realization.

4. As citizens of India we are deeply interested in the political, economical and social uplift of this important province of India on sound, steady and progressive lines.

5. Our aim is to work harmoniously with kindred bodies and make the working of the Reforms a success, proceeding on constitutional and well measured lines till India reaches her goal of self-government within the British Empire. In this, we would assure you, as in other matters, of our loyal and whole-hearted support.

6. But we would respectfully point out to Your Excellency that, as an Association, we have not received hitherto that measure of recognition and confidence of your Government that has been extended to other Associations, and to which we feel we have equal entitlement, in consideration of our loyal adherence, support and service in the administration of the good Government of the Province in the past as also the present. We would beg to point out that our Council consists of experienced men holding responsible positions in various avocations in the Presidency, and we feel sure that our advice would and could be of substantial help to the Government. We, therefore, hope that our opinions will be sought and that we shall be consulted in all matters political, economic and otherwise relating to the welfare of the Presidency.

7. We pray that Almighty God will give you and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson health and strength and guide your steps in all your undertakings and grant you a full measure of the great and noble work of the rebuilding of India.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Anglo-Indian
Association Address on 9th April 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for your address and for the very cordial welcome you have so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself, which we greatly appreciate. Before I left England I had the pleasure of meeting the members of your Association in London, and I then had the opportunity of hearing about some of the questions, in which your members here are especially interested. You are a minority community and as such it will be my duty as Governor to have special regard for your difficulties and your desires, with a view to assuring their receiving equitable treatment.

I appreciate your special need for a sound, general and technical education, so that your children may grow up suitably equipped for the competitive struggle in the services or business life in India. You are equally interested with all Indians in the political, economic and social progress of this country, in which you have made your homes, and in the life of which you desire to play a useful part.

I am pleased to note that you recognize that this progress can best be achieved through a willing endeavour to work, through the reforms, towards the establishment of self-government based upon a solid foundation of law and order. I shall be pleased to hear your views, whenever you consider that your interests as a community require my attention.

*Address presented by the Indian Association on 9th
April 1927.*

We, the members of the Indian Association, beg to extend to Your Excellency and to the Hon'ble Lady Jackson our cordial welcome on your assumption of the high office of Governor of Bengal.

2. Our Association is one of the oldest political associations of Bengal and was founded by eminent public men some years before the inauguration of the Indian National Congress. Amongst the founders of the Association was Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea who for nearly half a century was the most prominent worker in building up the political life of modern India. Our Association has endeavoured to voice the opinion of the public of Bengal with regard to important questions affecting their welfare. We deem it our duty to place before Your Excellency some of the questions which at the present moment are agitating the people of this province. We feel that you have just assumed charge of your high office. We do not, therefore, expect that Your Excellency would, in reply to this address, state your views on those important questions. But we earnestly trust that Your Excellency will be pleased to take an early opportunity personally to study those questions, as in our opinion they vitally concern the progress, well-being and contentment of the people of Bengal. We are anxious that a decision should be arrived at on those questions at an early date.

3. Coming as Your Excellency does from the atmosphere of the British Parliament and of the

political life of England in which you held a prominent position, we hope that Your Excellency will have every sympathy with the aspirations of the people of this country to attain as early as possible the status of a self-governing dominion within the Empire. The early attainment of *Swaraj*, as promised to them in the historic declaration of the 20th August 1917, is the common aim of all political parties in this country. We desire to remind Your Excellency that the time for the appointment of the Statutory Commission for revision of the Indian Constitution is approaching. We are looking forward to the early establishment of real responsible Government in the provinces on the lines of the aforesaid declaration. We trust we shall have Your Excellency's sympathy and support in our endeavours to attain real political progress. It has been stated that there are difficulties in the way. But if the problem is approached in a spirit of sympathy and not of hostile criticism, and if an endeavour is made to realize how the people feel under the present system, Your Excellency will find that there is amongst a large section of the people a spirit of mutual trust and good-will so necessary for peaceful progress.

4. The detention without trial for a prolonged period of persons under Regulation III of 1818 and under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act is felt keenly by the people. Many of these persons have been in detention for more than two years. There is a strong and widespread feeling in this country that Government should either release these detenus or put them on their trial. The present feeling of irritation of the people of Bengal towards

the Government is in a great measure due to the prolonged detention of these persons. We trust Your Excellency will examine this question with a fresh mind and will take into consideration the circumstances that the detention has already been for an unusually long period. The release of the political detenus at an early date will considerably soothe public feeling in this province and will create an atmosphere which will help in establishing better relations between the administration and the people.

5. Amongst the pressing problems facing the people of this province are the questions of public health and of the organization and improvement of agriculture and industries. We earnestly request Your Excellency to see that these questions will be given their due importance in working the administration.

6. Intimately connected with the above questions is the question of provincial finance. Our finances are regulated by the financial settlement known as the "Meston Award." Under that award the sources of revenue allocated to Bengal happen mostly to be fixed and inelastic. They are not capable of much expansion. Your predecessor in office in his farewell speech to the Legislative Council drew pointed attention to this serious grievance under which this province labours. The revision of the "Meston Award" has become imperative. If there is to be contentment and peaceful progress in the province, we hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to take up the question of such revision as early as possible.

7. There is another matter to which we desire to call Your Excellency's attention. In recent years there have been a large number of cases of outrages on women in different parts of Bengal, particularly in the interior. The time has come when the Government should take steps with a view to the eradication of this class of crime. We would suggest that instructions should be issued that in such cases the Public Prosecutor should take up the conduct of the prosecution, and the cost of the prosecution including the expenses of witnesses, should be met out of the public revenues. Most of the complainants being poor and helpless are unable to obtain justice unless the State comes to their help. A register of such crimes and trials should also be kept by the District Officer who should send periodical reports to Government. The police should also be instructed to take special care in such cases and to assist the Public Prosecutor to the best of their ability.

His Excellency's Reply to the Indian Association Address on 9th April 1927.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for your address and I am very grateful for the cordial welcome, so kindly accorded to Lady Jackson and myself by such a long established and influential political body as the Indian Association. You have reason to be proud of the eminent men who have been connected with your Association—one of whom, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee, was so well known as a wise, broad-minded, and patriotic Indian, and can justly be described as the “guru” of Bengal political life.

In your address you have called my attention to some of the many problems, which to-day agitate the political mind in Bengal. I appreciate your considerate recognition that the opportunity I have had of making myself acquainted with them has been too limited to justify my expressing considered and definite opinions upon them at this moment, but you will, I am sure, believe me when I say, that I am fully conscious of their importance and that they are all receiving my most careful attention.

You refer to the aspirations of the people of this great country to attain the status of a self-governing dominion within the Empire. The British Parliament, of which I was a member, decided by Act of Parliament to open the way to such a possibility. The British Parliament will not go back upon its word, but it expects that a sincere and honest endeavour upon its part to help India to attain her

desires shall receive an equally sincere and honest response from India.

I am pleased to note and to express the belief that if the problems are approached in a spirit of sympathy I shall find a response in mutual trust and good-will. I venture to hope that the sympathy you may expect will be forthcoming and I trust that the responsive good-will to which you refer will not be found wanting.

The detention of prisoners under Regulation III and the Criminal Law Amendment Act is a source of great concern to everyone responsible for the government of this country. Political and material progress is impossible without that confidence which is created by peace and tranquility. A programme which included methods of violence or terrorism would, in my judgment, never receive the approval of any party that could ever hope to hold power in the British Parliament.

The improvement of conditions in agriculture and the organization of industry must always receive the constant and earnest attention of my Government.

There is one subject you mention in your address upon which there appears to be an unanimous opinion. The position of the Presidency as regards finance under the "Meston Award" is generally considered unsatisfactory and I hope that it may be possible in the near future for the Government of India to reconsider the general position throughout India under this award in the light of experience.

*Address presented by the Central National Muham-
madan Association on 9th April 1927.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

On behalf of the Central National Muhammadan Association which was founded in 1877 by the Right Hon'ble Syed Amir Ali, P.C., and which has half a century's record of disinterested service to the country, we beg to offer Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson our most cordial and respectful welcome on your assumption of the exalted office of Governor of Bengal.

2. Although we are constrained to acknowledge that Bengal, more than any other Province in India, has always been a thorny and difficult province to govern, for even so far back as the 13th century, it earned the unenviable title of "Bolgakpur" or "the land of unrest" from the early Moslem Emperors of Delhi, and although we realize that this traditional Bengal unrest has been intensified by the unseemly wrangle and scramble for limited power and place thrown open by the Reform Scheme amongst a people who have not yet fully developed the sense of National unity, and who are yet torn into parties, factions and cliques, based more often on personal aims and ambitions than on differences in principles and policies, we trust Your Excellency's long experience of public affairs as a successful organizer and Chairman of the great Conservative Party in England, may enable you to reconcile clashing interests and to grapple with its many serious

communal, intercommunal and other problems by your tactful handling and by a strict enforcement of the rules of fair-play.

3. The community which we represent forms approximately 56 per cent. of the population of this province, which is one of the oldest Moslem settlements in India, dating from the end of the 12th century. For nearly six hundred years the administration of this Province was in Moslem hands, and even after its transfer to the British about the middle of the 18th century, Moslem officers continued to help the East India Company in organizing the new administration, and almost all the high offices, Administrative, Judicial, Revenue, Magisterial and Police were held by Muhammadans. Even so far down as 1793, the Civil Lists of Lord Cornwallis' time showed 75 per cent of Moslems in the service of the State. Subsequently, rather abruptly, in 1837, the Persian language was replaced by English as the official Court Language. Centuries of administrative pride born of long traditions and high culture together with the innate conservatism associated therewith, naturally stood in the way of Moslems adapting themselves to the changed conditions as freely and easily as their Hindu compatriots. The result was catastrophic, in that the Muhammadans were soon ousted by English-educated Hindus from all Government Departments. And to crown the Moslem's misfortune, almost simultaneously the resumption proceedings were launched vigorously and this resulted in numerous ancient Muhammadan land-holding families being deprived of their landed properties, and the educational system of Moslems,

which till then was entirely based and maintained on rent-free grants, received its death-blow. "The Scholastic classes of the Moslems emerged from the 18 years of harrying, absolutely ruined."

4. In view of the deplorable decadence that had overtaken the Moslems mainly under the operation of the above causes, this Association in 1882 submitted a Memorial to the Government of India which issued a Resolution in 1885, recognizing the political rights and status of Indian Moslems, and emphasizing the fairness and expediency of making due provision for Moslem educational facilities and for the adequate employment of Moslems in the public services. Since then the Moslems have been afforded some increase in the facilities for acquiring English education and have been in small numbers admitted into the public services. They are, however, still handicapped by having been outstripped in the race of life by their Hindu compatriots, and we have no doubt Your Excellency will soon be able to discover that the position of the Moslems of Bengal in the administration and other spheres is still very far from having received adequate recognition. Although there is at present no dearth of duly qualified Moslems for any position in the public service or administration, they encounter considerable difficulties owing to the vested interests of departmental monopolies. In spite of being a substantial majority in point of population in this province, the Reform Scheme puts the Moslems in minority in the Legislative Council. Economically, the Moslems are producers of the vast agricultural wealth of Bengal, but agrarian disabilities and other drawbacks, mainly due to their

illiteracy and absence of organization, have practically reduced them to an indigent condition.

5. In view of the fact that the advent of the Royal Commission to revise and modify the Constitutional changes under the Reform Scheme will synchronize with your regime, to Your Excellency will fall the rare opportunity of helping in some measure in the removal of the various anomalies and impediments that clog Moslem life in Bengal. May we not, therefore, be permitted to hope and trust that Your Excellency will be pleased to give your personal attention to the serious problem of affording the Moslem community in Bengal equal opportunity to rise to a level with the other great community, educationally, politically and economically, so that power may be balanced and real responsible government under the Reform Scheme established in the fullness of time. We have full confidence that as a world-renowned personification of the spirit of cricket, Your Excellency will, by your wise and impartial administration, ensure that fair-play between the different communities which is so essential to the true advancement of this country. On our own part we beg to assure Your Excellency of our loyal and unstinted co-operation.

6. In conclusion, we pray to the Almighty that he may vouchsafe to Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson, long life and prosperity and that the period of your stay in Bengal may be pleasant and happy and crowned with success.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Central
National Muhammadan Association
Address on 9th April 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you sincerely for your kindly welcome which you have accorded to Lady Jackson and myself on our arrival in Calcutta to take up my duties as Governor of this Presidency.

You remind me that in the years gone past Bengal had a reputation of being the land of unrest. To-day there are problems, political and otherwise, which present difficulties, but I am hopeful that with a reasonable amount of good-will and sympathetic and careful handling they are not incapable of solution.

I am aware that your community is the largest in numbers in this Province, and you have reason to be proud of the part you have played in the administration of the Province in the past. I fully appreciate your desire to-day for fair opportunity to serve the State.

I am glad to note that improved educational facilities are being provided which should enable you to take advantage of the opportunities they offer so to equip yourselves as to be able to hold your own in the competition for positions in the services and in the business life of the Province.

I appreciate the kindly expression of your confidence in my endeavour to ensure fair-play. I shall

certainly try to secure for all communities equal opportunities to progress, educationally, politically and economically, and I trust that you, by diligent and persistent endeavour, will attain that standard of efficiency which will assure to you opportunities in the civic, business and administrative life of the Presidency commensurate to your numbers.

*Address presented by the Marwari Association on
9th April 1927.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the members of the Marwari Association, beg to accord to Your Excellency and Lady Jackson our most respectful and cordial welcome on your assumption of the exalted office of the Governor of Bengal.

2. The Marwari community, which our Association has the honour to represent, is engaged in commercial and industrial pursuits throughout the country and has made Bengal the land of its adoption. Having a very large portion of the trade and commerce of the Presidency in our hands and indeed having very large stakes in it, we form an important section of its population and, as such, naturally share the legitimate hopes and aspirations of our sister communities for the political and economic advancement of the province.

3. We sincerely believe in mutual understanding and co-operation between the Government and the people and are anxious to render every possible service for the realization of the national hopes and aspirations. But we are invariably handicapped in availing ourselves of the present opportunities of service, either through total want of representation or through inadequate representation on the civic and administrative bodies, such as the legislatures, the Calcutta Port Trust, the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the Railway Advisory Committees, etc., and it is our earnest hope that during Your Excellency's administration, the constitution of all these bodies

may be further liberalized to secure the adequate representation of all important interests and minorities which require representation.

4. Bengal, as Your Excellency is aware, is passing through critical times and the atmosphere is far from calm owing, among other reasons, to communal tension. But we look forward to the inauguration, by Your Excellency, of practical measures which, while safeguarding the religious and civic rights of the people and making the outbreak of communal disorders impossible, will bridge the unhappily fast widening gulf between the different sections of the people and unite them to live and work together for the progress and advancement of their common country as a nation, instead of as communities with narrow communal ideas and ideals.

5. Many problems of great social, political and economic importance, affecting the peace and tranquility of the Presidency and the health, happiness and general prosperity of the people, are awaiting solution. Realizing, as we do, that a great concentration of sincere efforts on the part of both the Government and the people is needed for the satisfactory solution of those problems, we consider it a happy sign of the times that the country has given a clear verdict in favour of working the present constitution, with the nation-building departments in charge of popular Ministers. We hope that Your Excellency's administration will be characterized by successful efforts to improve the economic life of the province by an intensive development of its material resources. Such measures, we venture to believe, are bound to

strengthen the links that bind the people with the Government and win their willing and whole-hearted co-operation.

6. Many important questions affecting Calcutta itself, as the capital city of Bengal and as a great port, will also claim Your Excellency's attention and we feel it our duty to draw Your Excellency's attention to one of them, namely, the supreme necessity of opening out and improving the chief centre of the city's trade known as the Burra Bazar. Your Excellency will be interested to learn that it was primarily with the object of improving that area that the Calcutta Improvement Trust was created. The opening out of that congested area is essential not only for providing adequate accommodation for trade and improved facilities for transport, but also for the sake of its sanitation and the health of its inhabitants. We hope that the improvement of Burra Bazar which has been delayed so long will be an accomplished fact in Your Excellency's time.

7. In conclusion, we pray that health and happiness may attend Your Excellency and Lady Jackson during your stay in Bengal and that when the time comes for Your Excellency to lay down the reins of office, Your Excellency may be able to look back to a record of moral and material prosperity in the Presidency the destiny of which it has pleased His Majesty to place in your hands.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Marwarl
Association Address on 9th April 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the cordial welcome you have so kindly given to Lady Jackson and myself on our arrival in Calcutta, to take up my appointment as Governor of Bengal. I have read your address with care and interest. I am aware of the important part your community plays in the commercial and industrial life of Calcutta and I appreciate your desire for adequate representation upon the civic and administrative bodies in this city. The representation upon the Legislatures and upon civic administrative bodies has, I understand, been allotted after most careful consideration of the interests of all communities and sections of the people in Calcutta.

I am deeply interested in your desire for the cessation of communal tension, which has culminated on occasions in serious disturbances. I wish to express the earnest hope that I may rely upon your co-operation and that of all classes and sects, in an endeavour to ease the tension and to persuade all sections of the people to work together in the general interests of their common country.

I am glad that you realize that united effort between Government and people is necessary for all political and economic progress and that you feel able to express the view that there are signs of such willing co-operation to work the present constitution. I have no doubt that the departments under

my Ministers, which can be termed "Nation Building," will help progress and that we may see satisfactory development in the material resources of the Presidency.

You call my attention to the need of clearing and improving Burra Bazaar which you inform me is the chief centre of the city's trade. I am advised that the Board of the Improvement Trust have already decided to proceed with a scheme to deal with this area at the earliest possible moment. Such a work will certainly have my cordial support and I trust it may not be long delayed. I hope at the same time you will encourage and support what appears to me a matter of vital importance to progress in Calcutta, namely, the erection of a bridge across the river to Howrah. It is over 30 years since I was in Calcutta. Meanwhile, the development of industries has progressed in a remarkable way and it appears to me that the present structure, or anything like it, is totally inadequate to meet the growing requirements of the life and trade of the city. At the same time I venture to suggest that the structure to be erected should be of such a character as would be worthy of this magnificent city and the glorious and venerated waters over which it would stretch.

Address presented by the Chairman and Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality on 12th April 1927.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality and the Members of the District Board of Darjeeling, offer to Your Excellency and Lady Jackson a very hearty welcome on the occasion of your first visit to the town and to the district.

2. We acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and encouragement which Your Excellency's predecessors, and Your Excellency's Government, have given to our endeavours to maintain a high standard of administration in municipal matters. We confidently rely on a continuance, in the future, of the favours which we have received in the past.

3. During recent years the municipality has incurred very heavy expenditure on roads, on water-supply and on the replacement of crowded and insanitary dwellings by houses built in accordance with modern standards of health and cleanliness. In particular, the development of motor-car traffic has made it necessary for us to construct a new road in the neighbourhood of the railway goods station, and this has proved a most expensive undertaking. The result is that the municipality, which was formerly wealthy when judged by Indian standards, has now had to reduce the amount at its credit almost to the minimum allowed by law. Moreover, with the expansion of the town, new administrative

problems are constantly arising, and it is inevitable that public expenditure should be further increased. Should it become necessary for us to appeal to Your Excellency's Government for assistance, we are sure that our application will be received with sympathy.

4. The District Board is responsible in part for the maintenance of communications, and to a large extent for the provision of education and of medical help throughout the district. It is not too much to say that its resources are entirely inadequate to its needs, particularly as regards communications, and this although the Board levies cess at the maximum rate allowed by law. We are most grateful for the fact that Your Excellency's Government has spent, and is spending, very large sums for the construction and maintenance of roads throughout the district. The area under cultivation, however, and especially the area under tea cultivation in the south of the district, is expanding rapidly, while the cost of labour and materials is constantly on the increase. The result is that the Board, so far from being able to construct the new roads that are so urgently required, is finding it exceedingly difficult to maintain those already in existence, and has had to apply to Your Excellency's Government to take over charge of a number of roads for which the Board has hitherto been responsible. We trust that Your Excellency's Government will see its way to assist us, either in this, or in some other way.

Again extending to Your Excellency and Lady Jackson a most sincere and loyal welcome:

Address presented by the Members of the Hillmen's Association, Darjeeling, on 12th April 1927.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the members of the Hillmen's Association, Darjeeling, consisting of all the numerous castes and creeds, such as, the Nepalese (Gurkhas), Tibetans, Bhutias and Lepchas, offer Your Excellency a most hearty and cordial welcome to our mountain home on the occasion of Your Excellency's first public entry to this town.

2. Your Excellency's predecessors had always felt a keen interest in the welfare of these mountain tribes whom we represent, and we hope Your Excellency will also keep up the tradition.

3. The valuable services rendered by the hill people, particularly by the Gurkhas, during the great war, have, perhaps, not failed to draw Your Excellency's attention during Your Excellency's past military career, and as such, Your Excellency may now be interested to see them in their homes along these rugged hills of the Mighty Himalayan System. It is, therefore, unnecessary to enumerate here the various wants and ambitions of our people which will not fail to attract Your Excellency's due attention during Your Excellency's administration.

4. Our people have very keenly felt the necessity of adequate educational facilities for the education and training of their children. There are at present only two high schools—the Local Government High School and one at Kalimpong managed by the Scotch Mission—for a population of about one lakh of hill people. Owing to this reason there are

every year more applicants for admission into the Local Government High School than there are seats in the schools. The public of Kurseong have for a long time clamoured for one high school in the subdivision of Kurseong and the attention of the Government was drawn very often to this, but no action appears to have been taken. For higher educational facilities there is absolutely none in this district but sympathetic response was received from Your Excellency's predecessor on the representation made by our association, which, we are sure, is likely to attain fruition early. One secondary college in the town and a high school at Kurseong are the crying needs of our people and we eagerly look to Your Excellency for the full realization of our hope.

5. The want of facilities for higher education operates seriously to the disadvantage of the hill boys in yet another way, when they go up for training in the technical lines, such as, Medical, Engineering courses, as these institutions do not admit boys without being a graduate or undergraduate. Unless some special concession is granted to the hill boys their training in these lines is doomed. We, therefore, look to Your Excellency's Government for granting special concessions to the hill boys so that they might find admission into the Medical and Engineering institutions after passing the Matriculation Examination.

6. Hampered as we are by the very poor educational facilities in our district, we are put to still greater disadvantage by the inexorable rule which compels our candidates for Provincial Services to compete with those who have the best facilities for

education and who are very much advanced in all respects. We understand that some special consideration is made for minorities, such as, the Muhammadans, who have to compete within their own community and, unless similar treatment be accorded to the hill people, we cannot secure any place in the Provincial Service. We, therefore, eagerly look to Your Excellency's Government for the extension of the same treatment to our candidates for Provincial Services so far as competitive examinations are concerned.

7. There is another matter concerning Service which we desire to mention to Your Excellency. It is an inborn and natural human desire to seek for appointments that are vacant at home and even if some one be ambitious enough to seek for employment elsewhere there is very little chance for him outside as the claims of the children of that soil always stand in the way. But it is a great pity that sometimes the claims of the children of this district, although qualified and competent in all respects for appointment in the district, have been overlooked, resulting in great disappointment and unrest amongst our people. We sincerely hope that our claims for services in the district either in the local bodies or in Government services will find due recognition during Your Excellency's regime.

8. The hill people had always felt keenly the necessity of a meeting place for healthy recreation and studies during leisure hours, but through the enthusiasm and endeavours of our young men a small library known as "Mano-Binode-Library" was started some time ago which is doing very useful work by way of dissemination of knowledge

amongst them. It has also formed a useful meeting place for mutual exchange of thought. The Darjeeling Municipality has been giving a generous grant-in-aid in the shape of a reduced rent and it is hoped that this useful institution will receive due patronage from Your Excellency's Government.

9. Having implicit confidence in British justice we have not yet clamoured for political rights and privileges, although our interests have gone unrepresented either in the Imperial or Provincial Councils of India ever since the advent of the Reforms. On our representation to Your Excellency's predecessor we had received some hope for the removal of the ban of exclusion which, we pray, might be translated into action early, as from experience we have keenly felt the necessity of adequate representation in the Councils of India for the proper safeguard of our interests, which, being in minority, are constantly overlooked. During Your Excellency's regime, however, we hope that our interests will find proper representations in the Legislatures of the country.

10. Our Association has been able to maintain peace and harmony not only amongst the numerous castes and creeds, which compose the hill people, but has maintained cordial relations with the various nationalities that inhabit this district and we shall endeavour to continue the same mutual good-will ever hereafter.

11. On behalf of the members of our Association we again accord Your Excellency and Lady Jackson a hearty welcome to our mountain home and we assure Your Excellency of our readiness to respond to any call on our people.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Darjeeling on 12th April
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to the Chairman and Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality, the members of the District Board and the Hillmen's Association for the very kind welcome which they have individually extended to Lady Jackson and myself on our arrival in your beautiful and world-renowned town.

It was my privilege to visit Darjeeling over 30 years ago, and it was my good fortune then to see that wonderful panoramic picture, which is generally acknowledged to be the most glorious than can be seen by man from beaten paths. The impressions made upon my mind then have never left me and I look forward with much pleasure to our periodical visits to Darjeeling, which will afford us the opportunity of enjoying one of the most inspiring sights that nature in all its majestic glory can offer.

The attractiveness of your town and of its superb surroundings needs no advertisement. It offers health and rest to those who, tired and jaded with the heat of the plains, come up here for a breath of revivifying air:

You, Commissioners of the Municipality, are obviously conscious of your responsibilities, for on all sides one sees the results of thoughtful and progressive administration.

By clearing the insanitary areas and replacing them with modern buildings and by improving the means of access to your midst and also your water-supply, you add greatly to the amenities of life and comfort of your inhabitants.

Such works necessarily involve large expenditure which strains your resources, but I am glad to hear that my Government have shown appreciation of your efforts and have agreed to assist you by a loan of Rs. 25,000, of which you will be able to take advantage this year. I feel sure that my Government will consider sympathetically the request for assistance, consequent upon expenditure on necessary and approved schemes for the general welfare of your town and its inhabitants.

You, Gentlemen, of the District Board, are also directly interested in the maintenance of communications and upon you also falls the responsibility for education and medical services throughout the district. I note your concern as regards the adequacy of the resources at your disposal to meet the growing demands of your district. You know the assistance you receive at present from Government, which appears to be substantial. I understand that my Government are now considering the taking over from your charge some of the roads in the Siliguri subdivision: if it is found possible to do this, it should prove of considerable assistance to you.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HILLMEN'S ASSOCIATION,

I am particularly grateful for your cordial welcome of us to your mountain homes. It will be a pleasure to me to follow the example of my

predecessors as regards the interest they have taken in your welfare. I am aware of the loyal and devoted services rendered by the hill people to the King-Emperor on numerous occasions. The hardiness, courage, and loyalty of the Gurkhas, the Highlanders of India, have long been a source of admiration throughout the whole Empire. Their exploits in war alongside their British comrades show records of which they can well be proud.

I have noted with care your natural desire for increased educational facilities and I have read with interest the various proposals suggested in your address, which you consider might help you in this direction. During my stay in Darjeeling I propose to give particular attention to the conditions and needs of this part of the Presidency, and I shall hope to have the opportunity of discussing with your representatives the problems affecting your district, which call for immediate attention.

I sympathise with your aspirations for direct representation in the Provincial Council and in the Legislative Assembly. I should like, however, to make myself thoroughly acquainted with your constitutional status and your exact position under conditions as they are to-day. When I have satisfied myself on these points, you may rest assured that I will give my most earnest consideration to the wishes you express in your address.

Address presented by the Muhammadan Community of Kalimpong on 20th May 1927.

We, the Muhammadan community and the members of the Anjuman Islamia, Kalimpong, beg most respectfully and humbly to offer our heartiest welcome and loyalty to Your Excellencies for your gracious visit to this our small subdivision of Kalimpong. We are some eight or ten Mussalman tradesmen here, carrying on businesses on a small scale. The whole Muslim population of the subdivision will be about 100. The late Doctor Mirza Karim Beg, who was the first Mussalman to come here some 40 or 45 year ago, was followed by several other Mussalmans from Bihar and Western Bengal, and gradually they founded small businesses and some of them became domiciled by marrying here.

2. Our children were so long going without education as we had no school or Madrassa of our own. We have got a mosque here, near which we were very kindly allowed a piece of land by the Government, whereon we are now trying to erect a building for Madrassa. The building is in progress and in about a year or so, we expect to start a Maktab or school.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
welcome from the Muhammadan Com-
munity of Kallimpong on 20th May
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

We thank you for your cordial welcome and though you are only a small community in this subdivision, I gather from your address that you are anxious to play an useful part in the life of this beautiful little town. I appreciate your desire for educational facilities for your children. I am sorry to hear that at present the blessing of education for your children is not available as you have no school or Madrassa of your own. I note with pleasure, however, that you are endeavouring to erect a suitable building for educational purposes and I wish you success in your efforts.

I thank you again for your kind welcome and good wishes.

*Address presented by the Hill Communities of
Kalimpong on 20th May 1927.*

We, the hill communities of Kalimpong, feel to-day greatly honoured by this Your Excellencies' first visit to our country. Under the fostering care of the benign British Government, this little nook of the Great British Empire has been making rapid strides towards enlightenment and development, so much so, that within the last few years, it has shown signs of emerging into the broad daylight of public view, not only in the matter of trade and commerce, but also as a health resort. We are proud to see that this country of ours not only cradles her children, but that her heaving bosom has been widened still more to receive people from other climes as well, offering to them her love and peace and prosperity. The occasional presence of Your Excellencies will indeed act as glorious sunshine in nourishing the growth of enlightenment in our country, and we have thus the cause to be greatly happy on this occasion to-day, which we hope to be, but, the forerunner of many more of such gracious visits from Your Excellencies from time to time.

2. Obstacles indeed we think we have, which hinder our progress in marching side by side with other people along the broad path of progress under the Great British Empire. Some of such obstacles have been submitted before Your Excellencies by the Hillmen's Association of Darjeeling, and we have every confidence that at Your Excellencies' kind hands, those obstacles will soon pass away.

3. As the worthy representatives of our beloved King-Emperor; we offer our love and loyalty, and welcome Your Excellencies most heartily to Kalimpong.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
welcome from the Hill Communities of
Kailmpong on 20th May 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

Lady Jackson and I are very grateful for the kind terms in which you have greeted us on our arrival in your hill country. We shall never forget the kindly welcome that we received from the Hill-men's Association on our first arrival in Darjeeling. I promised on that occasion to give my personal attention to various matters brought to my notice which directly affect your interests. You may rest assured that your interests up here as well will be included in my survey of the conditions of the hill district with a view to improving its welfare.

I appreciate your desire for educational facilities. I am most anxious to see these assured to you and I hope you will take advantage of them. I am extremely grateful for the cordial welcome you have given us and for the expression of that loyal devotion to His Majesty the King-Emperor for which the hillmen have always been so well known all over the British Dominions.

*Address presented by the Marwari Community of
Kalimpong on 20th May 1927.*

We the residents of the Marwari community beg most humbly to accord a hearty welcome to Your Excellencies in our midst on the occasion of Your Excellencies' first visit to Kalimpong.

2. Only a few years ago Kalimpong was a small village unknown to the outside world, hidden away in one of the remotest corners of the British Empire, having nothing, but its own obscurity and its excellent climate to boast of. Our benign Government, however, was quick to see the advantages that this little village possessed in its aloofness and its beauty and early marked it out as a place worthy of further notice and development. Under the fostering care and watchful guidance of the authorities Kalimpong to-day calls itself a subdivisinal town and is proud to possess several of the most useful institutions of this province. It is yet but a small town, but successive heads of this province have thought it worthy of their notice and have graced it with their presence. We are proud beyond all measure to feel that Your Excellencies have deemed it worthy to grace our little town so early with your august presence. It is a happy augury and we are assembled here to-day to express our heartfelt gratitude to Your Excellencies' kind attention towards our infant town. Improved communications have already opened out vast possibilities, but as the communications go on improving further developments are bound to follow. We are all looking forward to the construction of the new Teesta Bridge and it will be a proud

day for the inhabitants of this town when Your Excellencies cross this new bridge by motor car. Our little town can never hope to compete with the sister hill station of Darjeeling, but if Your Excellencies only grace this little corner of Your Excellencies' province by occasional visits, this sub-divisional town may one day compare favourably with its district headquarters station. It is yet another happy augury that Your Excellencies visit coincides with the first laying out of the Golf Course. Kalimpong may yet be proud of placing its Golf Course at Your Excellencies' disposal. We humbly pray in conclusion that Your Excellencies may keep one kind and warm corner of your heart for this exquisite and tiny town in the heart of the Himalayan Mountains.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
welcome from the Marwari Community
of Kalimpong on 20th May 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you on behalf of Lady Jackson and myself for your address and kind welcome which you offer us to-day.

I remember with pleasure receiving an address of welcome from the Marwari Association on my arrival in Calcutta. You are, I believe, a trading community and as such naturally interested in the progress and prosperity of this subdivision. I am glad to note that you appreciate the assistance which the Government of Bengal have rendered towards its development. Though situated in a remote part of the Presidency, Kalimpong is placed on an important trade route. The improvement of means of communication down to rail-head is a matter which is receiving the careful attention of the Government and I hope that when this is completed, it may help to assure the retention and increase of trade by this route. The question of further development whereby this beautiful town may prove attractive as a health resort is also now being considered.

Gentlemen, I again thank you for your cordial welcome. I am looking forward to enjoying my visit here.

*Address presented by the President and the Members
of Anjuman-Islamia, Darjeeling, on 28th May
1927, at the Anjuman building.*

We, the President and the members of the Anjuman-Islamia, Darjeeling, on our own behalf and on behalf of the Mussalmans of the district whom we have the honour to represent, beg to offer Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson a respectful and cordial welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to our Anjuman.

2. The Anjuman was established in 1909 to bring together the stray Mussalman population of this district with a view to improve its social, moral and intellectual conditions: and since then the activities of the Anjuman have been, we are proud to say, varied and considerable. To provide accommodation to the increasing congregation of Fridays and the still larger annual congregation of the Id days, we have rebuilt the Jama-i-Masjid here at a cost of Rs. 35,000, and we have also built a small mosque at Sukhiapukhri, the site of which was personally inspected by Lord Ronaldshay. The mosques at Lebong, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Jalapahar are under the care and supervision of this Anjuman who are also in charge of the burial grounds and provide decent burial free to the poor and destitute of our community.

3. To remove the keenly felt want of accommodation by the visitors to this town, a Guest House with two rooms was started in 1910, but the demand for accommodation increased to such a great extent that we have had to extend and enlarge it considerably. At present the Guest House is a

double storied building containing 24 rooms built at a cost of Rs. 24,000 where visitors to this town irrespective of caste and creed are provided with free accommodation. The popularity and usefulness of the Guest House will appear from the fact that within these few years more than 8,000 visitors obtained shelter under this roof. A small Guest House has also been built at Kalimpong.

4. The Anjuman supports from its funds the old and decrepit members of its community as well as the widows and orphans and keeps them off from begging. Stipends are also given to poor deserving students of our community prosecuting their studies in the local High School.

5. A special feature of the Anjuman's work is its attempt to keep down litigation among the community by arbitration, an attempt in which it is gratifying for us to mention, we have attained conspicuous success.

6. The intellectual welfare and the educational needs of the community form our chief concern. We maintain a school for girls and a Madrassa for boys. The latter school was originally built at a cost of Rs. 6,500 of which Rs. 2,000 was the gift of Lord Carmichael and was graciously opened by Lord Ronaldshay. To satisfy the growing needs of our children, the building has now been further enlarged at a cost of Rs. 6,000 of which Rs. 4,000 was granted by Lord Ronaldshay and the school was raised to the standard of a junior Madrassa.

7. The increasing number of girls necessitated the extension and enlargement of the Girls' School at a cost of Rs. 16,000 of which Rs. 7,000 were given

by Lord Lytton's Government. A plot of land has recently been acquired from the Municipality for the purpose of providing a play ground for the girls and a plan and estimate to cost Rs. 7,000 have been prepared and submitted to Government who have promised to meet two-thirds of the cost. It will be necessary to acquire some more land to extend the girls' school building in which matter we expect substantial assistance from Your Excellency's Government. In this connection we respectfully beg to mention that although this girls' school is growing in popularity and doing good work in educating the girls of our community, the Anjuman finds it more and more difficult to meet its increasing expenditure. Originally the recurring cost of this school was Rs. 53 a month of which the Municipality contributed Rs. 25 a month and the Government grant was Rs. 19 a month. The school staff has now been strengthened by the appointment of a well qualified Muslim Head Mistress from the Allahabad University and the appointment of a Sewing Mistress, and the recurring expenditure of the school now is about Rs. 150, but the grants-in-aid continue the same. We have applied to the Municipality and to Your Excellency's Government for increased grants-in-aid for this school and confidently hope that our prayer will receive favourable consideration.

8. Although much has been accomplished during the time the Anjuman has been in existence, a great deal more has still to be done to satisfy the growing needs of our community. Up to this time we have collected and spent nearly Rs. 2,00,000 of which more than one lakh represents the expenditure on different buildings; this, considering the

proverbial poverty of our community and the fact that the major portion of this money was raised by subscriptions is, we venture to submit, a performance of which we can reasonably be proud, and though we have not relaxed and do not wish to relax our efforts to raise money among ourselves, we feel that unless we secure Government and outside assistance, all the needs of our growing community will not be satisfied.

9. The great wants of our community in Darjeeling are a Reading Room, Library and a Public Hall proposed to be built on the vacant triangular piece of Musjid land at an estimated cost of Rs. 32,000 of the achievement of which, however, we regret to say, there is no early prospect.

10. We take this opportunity of respectfully placing before Your Excellency the inadequate representation of our community in the public offices of this district. We respectfully wish to emphasise that in spite of the fact that the Mussulmans form a considerable population of this district their claims to Government and other appointments do not receive adequate support and candidates from other districts are often appointed disregarding the superior claims of the residents of this district.

11. The successful career, which our Anjuman has had up till now, is due to a great extent to the sympathy and support which we have all along received from the authorities as well as from the august heads of the administration of this Presidency. The kindness and indulgence we have received in the past from Your Excellency's predecessors in office emboldens us to expect the

same from Your Excellency and we feel that under Your Excellency's fostering care and personal interest our future is assured.

12. Again offering Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson a most respectful and sincere welcome and praying to the Almighty for Your Excellency's and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson's long life, health and prosperity.

" May the sun of thy glory and prosperity shine for ever
May thy time be ever happy and glorious."

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
welcome presented by the Anjuman-
Islamia of Darjeeling on 28th May
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful for the welcome which you have so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself to-day. It is a particular pleasure to us to be afforded this opportunity of visiting your Anjuman. I have listened to your address with much interest. The objects of your Anjuman are in all respects most worthy and I congratulate you upon the success which has attended your efforts in the interest of the social, moral and intellectual improvement of your people in this district.

I was particularly impressed by the generous and tolerant spirit you have displayed in the provision of a Guest House open to all, regardless of caste or creed. This is an example of that broad-minded tolerance, which we all hope and pray may soon become general throughout India. You have every reason to be proud of the generous support you have gained towards your endeavours for the education of the boys and girls of your community, and I am pleased to note that Government have felt justified in backing up your efforts by substantial contributions. I have no doubt that their support will be forthcoming in the future according to the proved usefulness and efficiency of your schools.

I regret to notice that you consider that your community is inadequately represented in the

public offices of the district. This is a complaint which I felt required investigation, and so I have had enquiries made as to what the position is to-day. I am informed that the total number of Muhammadans in this district amounts to 3 per cent. of the total population and the total number of posts in the district held by members of your community is nearly 7 per cent., which appears to be a reasonable proportion. You will appreciate that it is necessary at all times to have regard to the efficiency of the public services and, therefore, I suggest that you continue to make yourselves as efficient as possible—which I feel sure, you will agree, is the key note of success. There is every sign that your community realize that this is the surest way to secure adequate representation proportionate to your numbers and influence.

You can be truly proud of the charitable and philanthropic work of your Anjuman, for which, I feel sure, you will reap the just reward.

I again thank you very much for your address and for your cordial welcome and we both wish you all success in your endeavours.

***His Exoellenoy's Speech at Meeting held
at the Town Hall on 11th July 1927, in
support of the Mayor's Fund In aid of
Rescue Homes.***

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be invited to preside at the meeting to-day.

The object, for which we are met provides a common platform for all, who are actuated by a desire to help to remove a serious evil, which unfortunately exists in our midst in Calcutta. Such a desire is the prerogative of no particular religion or sect—or indeed of any one class of decent-minded men or women. It is an object with which any one, in whatever path of life he may walk, must feel sympathy and, I should have thought, have come forward readily with a helping hand. As I understand the position, there are in Calcutta to-day a large number of girls and children helplessly and hopelessly enchained in vice, many of whom must be ignorant of their terrible fate, though I have no doubt they are waiting anxiously for a helping hand. The law of the land prescribes powers for the removal of these girls and children from their vicious surroundings and the Police are operating under this law with vigour, but the law does not and could not well provide for that assistance, which should enable the girls and children, so rescued, to secure the blessings of a decent and respectable life. We must depend for this largely upon voluntary effort. I understand there is a Home for girls, rescued from houses of ill-fame, and through the efforts of Sir Ewart Greaves a Home was established for children, where they could be kept and trained for useful lives. If these children

are rescued and then turned adrift, it is obvious where they must drift to. It is suggested that more Homes should be provided and that the funds raised should be allocated to any Homes or establishments certified as suitable for the reception and training of these girls and children.

In 1924, my predecessor, Lord Lytton, delivered a speech on this subject, when he made an eloquent and moving appeal for public support. He was disappointed with the response which was inadequate and not creditable. Just before he left India, he again referred to this matter and he then made an appeal to the Mayor, as the civic head of the city, for his assistance. You, Mr. Mayor, immediately responded to this request and issued an appeal. To-day you have most kindly come here and lent the support of your high position and your great personal influence. I feel sure the appeal will meet with better results.

An object such as that for which we are appealing to-day should receive the approval and support of all, who have the slightest feeling of human sympathy. The funds will be well administered and the Homes will be well looked after by thoroughly competent committees. As I said at the commencement of my remarks, this is an object which should be the special care of no particular class or creed. It is just an effort for common humanity, in which we can all co-operate and I trust the results will be such of which we can all be equally satisfied.

I shall watch with anxious interest and sympathy the progress of this praiseworthy endeavour.

I now ask the Mayor to move a Resolution.

His Excellency's Speech at the European Association (Calcutta Branch) Dinner at the Saturday Club on 12th July 1927.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must first of all thank you for so kindly giving my wife and me the opportunity of meeting so many members of the European Association on this occasion. We appreciate the compliment in being asked to this the first gathering of your Branch of the European Association at this time of the year. If this gathering represents a Branch effort, I wonder as to what the occasion of your all-India gathering must be like. I am particularly pleased to see so many ladies present. There are so many directions in India, in respect to which the influence and interest of women can bestow inestimable benefit, and my wife and I look forward to co-operation with them in Calcutta.

My experience of political life in England taught me to hold an exceptional respect for the work of women in that sphere. Every member of Parliament I know has an equal respect, and now that it has been proposed that in future women in England are to have an equal franchise with men, which means an excess of women in the electorate of 2½ millions, the respect of aspirants for Parliamentary honour will be greater than ever.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware that your Association occupies a position of importance and influence in India. Your views on subjects of political importance should be welcomed by those responsible for

the Government of this Presidency. You are in a position—from every day experience—to speak with authority upon most matters, especially those directly concerned with Industry and Commerce, and the fact that you have made it a rule to approach the consideration of big questions from the point of view of the general interest of India and not from any narrow or selfish consideration—should assure your representations carrying that weight they deserve. Perhaps you will allow me to say that I personally attach particular value to and shall welcome your assistance, based, as I feel it always will be, upon fair, just and careful consideration, with due regard to the general interests and welfare.

You were good enough, Sir, to express the encouraging view that in taking over my high office I do so with the good will and confidence of the European and Anglo-Indian communities in this Presidency and also of the majority of our Indian fellow-subjects. My main object must be to try to instil confidence and to justify it, not only in myself, but in the good faith of the British Government, to carry out their obligations towards India fairly and justly with due regard to all interests concerned and in accordance with the expressed intentions of the British Parliament.

I was informed that I was not expected to deal with political questions to-night. I shall therefore avoid them as far as possible.

I feel that I have arrived in India at a moment of exceptional interest, when the future welfare and destiny of British India may be directly affected by the course events may take over the next few years. During this period, the wisdom and statesmanship

of all responsible for Government, both at home and in India, will be taxed to the utmost, in the endeavour to establish, in accordance with the affirmed intention of Parliament, a sound, safe, stable and suitable form of Government for the greatest partner of the British Empire. Surely there has never been a time, when greater opportunity offered itself to Indians to produce statesmen, who rising above the petty desire of personal aggrandisement or the temporary ascendancy of a party, can by wisdom and foresight show their countrymen the way which leads to the gradual fulfilment of their reasonable aspirations and the establishment of a Government based upon sound and secure foundations, through which alone the continuous and lasting improvement of the lot of the people of India can be assured.

I read at home of great changes which had taken place and are taking place in India, and I have noticed an interesting speech of my predecessor, made in London the other day, in which he referred in eloquent terms to the changes, which he had seen and which he foresaw in the future in India. I should like to say here that in the three or four months' experience afforded to me of studying the situation in Bengal, I can appreciate in full the difficulties with which Lord Lytton was ever confronted, the courageous way in which he faced those difficulties, the satisfactory way in which to a large degree he overcame them and undoubtedly by his efforts left his successor a more hopeful prospect than he himself had been able to experience.

Great changes there undoubtedly have been and I think must be in the future. Since the world

went through the fire in 1914-1918, there have been changes in every quarter of the globe. The duty of all nations, especially those carrying great responsibilities, is to see that changes which come are of such a character as to assure that the future state is better—certainly not worse—than the past.

You, Sir, referred in your remarks to the Howrah Bridge. I happened to be in India 30 years ago, just at what I would term the impressionable age, and the impressions made on my mind then are not forgotten to-day. I remember Calcutta and the many beauties of the place—the superb maidan, the great and beautiful river and that perfectly appalling obstruction over it—the Howrah Bridge. I was somewhat surprised to see the same bridge still forming the only connection between Calcutta and Howrah. That it manages to carry the modern day traffic is at once a source of satisfaction, and a matter for wonder to me. I am informed that the traffic which passes over this bridge is considerably greater than that which passes over the London Bridge during the 24 hours of the day. I am also informed that 1,50,000 pedestrians, 7,000 bullock carts, not to speak of thousands of hand carts and several thousand of motor vehicles pass over this bridge in the course of 24 hours. I understand that it is recommended that a new bridge of a pontoon character should replace this old one. I have not been able to study carefully the proposals; but I should like to say with emphasis, that any structure; which is put up, should be one which is capable not only of carrying with ease the present traffic, but what must necessarily be an ever increasing traffic year by year. Above all it should be

a structure worthy of Calcutta, the second city of the Empire. I have had nothing to do with the proposed new bridge, and I should have been pleased if those responsible were able after further consideration to recommend a permanent and solid structure—as was suggested by the Committee presided over by Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, the most suitable and I believe ultimately the most economic bridge that could be erected—of the canti-lever type.

Address to be presented by the members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, on 13th July 1927.

We, the members of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, take this opportunity to accord Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson a most cordial welcome on your assumption of the exalted office of the Governor of this province.

2. Your Excellency may be aware that though this Chamber was established only in 1925, it may well claim to have supplied a long-felt want by the live interest this Chamber has evinced from its inception in matters industrial and commercial, and by the magnitude and importance of interests it represents including as it does all sections of the Indian mercantile community actively engaged in trade, commerce and industry.

3. The Chamber is at the same time fully alive to the fact that the sympathy of Your Excellency's Government towards the Chamber and its objects by a due consideration of the Chamber's claims and representations is very essential; and we earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to extend in future an increasing sympathetic attitude towards the needs and aspirations of the Indian mercantile community.

4. It is not possible to shut one's eyes to the conflict of commercial interests in the midst of which the Government of this province find themselves called upon to give decisions on matters of vital importance and it is to be regretted that there

have been occasions when the point of view of the Indian mercantile community has not been given due weight and it has been made to feel that the policy followed by the Local Government is not strictly in consonance with Indian interests.

5. We take this opportunity to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that hitherto the Local Government have done very little towards actively helping the growth of indigenous trade and industry. This may be due partly to the fact that Commerce is not a provincial subject. We, however, venture to suggest that the Government of India being situated at places far away from the chief centres of trade, it becomes all the more necessary for the Provincial Government to be always watchful of the needs of the people under their care and press the same upon the attention of the Central Government.

6. The Board of Industries in this province may be said to be without funds and functions and though a State-aid to Industries Bill has often been promised during the last five years, it has not yet been introduced in the Council. We would urge upon Your Excellency the desirability of immediate action in consultation with Indian opinion.

7. The problem of middle-class unemployment is looming large among the various burning questions that this province is faced with. Your Excellency will no doubt give this question due consideration with a view to arrive at some satisfactory solution. Your Excellency may be aware that the Government of India accepted as far back as January 1922 the policy of Indianisation of services under the Port

Trusts. . It is with regret that we have to point out that this commitment on the part of the Central Government has not been given effect to in the case of the services under the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. Even at present there is no dearth of suitable and qualified Indians to fill responsible posts under the Port Commissioners in certain departments such as Audit and Accounts and Stores. With regard to the other departments requiring technical skill, such as the Harbour Masters' department, we beg to suggest that definite steps be taken to train Indians for these appointments. In this connection, we take the liberty of reiterating our suggestion previously made with regard to the appointment of a Committee to recommend measures to be adopted to train Indian lads for the sea career. Such measures, in the opinion of the members of the Chamber, would ensure an adequate supply of Indian candidates for the Harbour Masters' department, as also for the Bengal Pilot Service.

8. The Province of Bengal offers excellent natural facilities for development by means of Water Transport. These facilities owing to a halting policy on the part of the Government have not been availed of to the full extent. We beg to submit that instead of burdening the public with the much more expensive Railway Transport, the facilities for Water Transport should be utilised in the best interests of the public under a well regulated system of control which will eliminate the evils of monopoly and safeguard the interests of the users and at the same time help the indigenous inland companies to grow and contribute their quota to the industrial and commercial development of

the Province. The grievances of the Indian Inland Steamship Companies will, it is hoped, receive redress at the hands of Your Excellency.

9. Another matter of primary importance which requires early attention is the want of proper banking facilities to develop Indian industry, internal trade, etc., as also to enable the cultivators to reap the full benefit of their labour. In this connection, we venture to submit that, if Bengal is to prosper, it is necessary that Government and the people should join (hands) together in evolving and adopting a scheme, whereby adequate banking facilities may be made available and for that purpose a Committee may be appointed to investigate into the existing conditions and to report upon the further steps that are needed as a preliminary to the Banking Commission promised to be appointed by the Government of India.

10. Bengal furnishes a good field for the growth and establishment of various forms of industry, for example, the manufacture of cotton goods, salt, etc. We may take this opportunity of drawing Your Excellency's attention to the fact that, although Bengal is a big market for cotton goods, the cotton manufacturing industry has not made any appreciable progress owing, *inter alia*, to the undoubtedly heavy railway freight charged on the transport of raw material from the places of its production. We have made representations to the Government of India regarding the manufacture of salt in this province. We fully trust that the development of industries will receive Your Excellency's most careful and sympathetic consideration.

11. In onclusion, we cherish the hope that Your Excellency's administration will be characterized by successful efforts in ameliorating the condition of the people of the province committed to your charge; and we pray that health and happiness may attend Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson during your stay in Bengal.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
presented by the Indian Chamber of
Commerce on 13th July 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the cordial welcome you so kindly extend to Lady Jackson and myself and for your good wishes for a successful term of office in Bengal. I need hardly assure you that I am deeply interested in the commercial and the industrial prosperity of the province and I am pleased to know that your Chamber, though still young, is proving of assistance to many sections of the Indian Commercial Community.

I note that you are anxious that Government shall give careful consideration to the opinions of your Chamber on matters concerning trade. This, I think I can assure you, will always be done. All matters concerning trade and commerce, on which the Government of India desire the opinion of the Local Government, are referred to the Chambers and Associations, and their views are given due weight, before the opinion of the Local Government is communicated to the Government of India, in whose hands the final responsibility for Indian commerce lies.

You refer to the requirements of indigenous industries for Government assistance. The Department of Industries, which has been in existence for some five years, has substantially assisted indigenous industries, *e.g.*, in 1926 the Government of Bengal spent Rs. 64,000 on the Bengal Tanning Institute. They have also assisted cottage industries and have established and maintained technical

and industrial schools. You complain that the Board of Industries which functions as a body charged with the duty of advising Government and the Department of Industries, has no funds placed at its disposal for aiding industries. My Government, however, do not agree that this advisory function has little value. They consider that the Board fulfils a useful purpose in this capacity, though they are not prepared at present to place funds at its disposal without further consideration.

A "State Aid to Industries Bill" is now being drafted and should probably be introduced in the Council early next year.

As regards State subsidies to industry, such a proposal must not be looked for with the impression that State aid will ensure successful industrial development. This has not been the invariable experience of those Governments which have tried it. It is still felt that the soundest line of advance is by private enterprise and if private capital and business skill are not forthcoming, no amount of State subsidy can assure business prosperity.

The Government of Bengal, no less than your Association, are exercised about the problem of middle class unemployment. They are carefully studying how best to correlate education with the avenues of employment open to middle class boys. You refer in particular to the Port Trusts where there is employment of all types—clerical, technical and nautical. The Port Trusts must decide for themselves their policy, but that the Calcutta Port Trust is in sympathy with the general policy of increasing the numbers of Indians in their service is proved by the fact, that since 1922 no less than 26 posts in the various branches of the services of

that Trust have come to be occupied by Indians and the Trust have started a policy of training Indians for their technical services.

You refer to several aspects of commercial development in which your members are interested. The growth of a "Banking sense" among the people as a whole should certainly benefit agriculture, facilitate the movement of produce and develop industry. The Government of India are engaged in a survey of the field of Indian banking and credit facilities.

The importance of efficient water transport to Bengal is thoroughly appreciated by my Government. Where water-borne transport is suitable to a district and can supply an economic and efficient service, additional railway construction is not likely to be undertaken without most careful consideration.

Salt manufacture is at present a matter for the Central Government. In considering this question, I am informed that the humidity of the climate of this province makes the manufacture of salt by evaporation a doubtful commercial proposition, and there are no mineral salt deposits.

I am grateful to your Association for placing before me your views upon matters of trade and commerce in which you are interested. I must again assure you that in this respect you can depend upon the most careful and sympathetic attention of my Government and I shall always be pleased to take advantage of your advice and assistance in these matters.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind wishes for my health and the success of my period of office.

*Address to be presented by the Bengal Mahajan
Sabha on 13th July 1927.*

We, the members of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, beg to accord to your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson, on your assumption of the onerous and exalted office of the Governor of the Presidency of Bengal, our most sincere and cordial welcome.

2. Although political ferment and communal strife had disturbed the peace of Bengal, it is gratifying to note that the situation has steadily improved by a policy of firmness and sympathetic statesmanship which Your Excellency has inaugurated in the morning of your administration. The economic distress of the people has menaced the security of life and property and peace and prosperity in this unhappy country. We regret to observe that the establishment of a topheavy administration in a major province with poor finances, has led to the imposition of fresh taxation upon an impoverished people which aggravated the situation and accentuated discontent. We submit with great respect that the experiment of dyarchy has been found to be expensive and unsuitable in our country which has been unfairly treated under the financial adjustment.

• 3. It is a well known fact that the vitality of the people has been undermined by the widespread and ever increasing adulteration of foodstuffs. We regret that the steps which have so far been taken by Government are inadequate. We venture to submit that the legislative enactments intended to cope with the situation cannot become effective until the offences of adulteration of foodstuffs are

penalised with imprisonment. We sincerely hope that Your Excellency will earn the lasting gratitude of the suffering millions of Bengal by taking drastic action to remove the evil of adulteration.

4. We take this opportunity to invite Your Excellency's attention to the inroads of water hyacinth which have impeded the waterways and agricultural operations and imperilled the health of the people. It is highly desirable that organised attempt and concerted action should be taken on an extensive scale with promptitude to save the country from this terrible pest.

5. It is a matter of anxiety and sorrow that the rivers and natural waterways of Bengal are steadily deteriorating. As a necessary sequel public health has been seriously endangered in Bengal, which is being desolated by the pestilences of malaria, *kala-azar* and cholera. We venture to hope that the improvement of these rivers and waterways which constitute the avenues of trade and commerce, will receive Your Excellency's closest and most sympathetic attention.

6. The Royal Commission to revise the constitution will commence its sitting during Your Excellency's administration, and we sincerely hope and trust that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to allow us our due share of representation in the reconstituted legislatures.

7. We regret that the horizon of India has recently been clouded with communal conflicts. We venture to suggest that joint electorates should be introduced in Bengal for bringing about lasting peace and harmony between the Hindus and Muhammadans.

8. We fully appreciate the difficulties and the magnitude of the task that lies before Your Excellency and take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of our sincere loyalty to the Crown and of our willing co-operation in the administration of the province whose destiny has been committed to the sacred charge of a true soldier and a sportsman, and we welcome you most warmly as such.

9. We pray Your Excellency and the Hon'ble Lady Jackson will enjoy peace and happiness and win the hearts and willing admiration of a loyal and contented people in Bengal.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
presented by the Bengal Mahajan Sabha
on 13th July 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to the members of the Bengal Mahajan Sabha for the kindly welcome, which you have extended to Lady Jackson and myself, and I greatly appreciate your assurance of co-operation with me in the administration of this Presidency. I acknowledge the expression of your loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor.

You refer to the political ferment and unfortunate communal strife which have been present throughout the Presidency, but which I trust in the interest of progress will gradually disappear. I note that you attribute the trouble to economic distress, and impoverished finances which have caused the burden of taxation to be increased. There is, I think, general agreement that Bengal has cause for complaint of the financial settlement arrived at under what is known as the Meston Award. As regards finance the experience of this Presidency during the years of the Reforms has more and more demonstrated that it is impossible to be content with a theoretical demarcation of spheres of taxation—provincial and central. Practical working has shown that for the proper administration of this industrial province some share of the revenues now allotted to central finance must be allocated to the province.

I have been impressed by the wide-spread anxiety shown as regards the deterioration of the rivers and waterways of the delta. The Irrigation and Public Health Departments are faced with a vast problem arising from the fact that the major portion of the river water entering this Province is now discharged into the Bay of Bengal on its eastern side by the common estuary of the Meghna, instead of being distributed over the whole delta as it was five or six centuries ago. All the Irrigation Department can do is to endeavour to obtain a flow of water in the beds of the old spill-rivers and a consequent current velocity sufficient to secure the carriage of their silt to the sea.

Such remedial measures, however, can only be attacked with confidence after a very close and patient study of river conditions. It is only upon data, which have been subjected to the closest scrutiny for years, that the departments can put forward proposals with a view to spreading the available supply of water over larger areas, without doing injury to the areas from which this water is obtained, and thus causing new decadent tracts in an endeavour to resuscitate old tracts.

The Statutory Commission under the Act should in its ordinary course commence its deliberations in the near future. The question of representation in the reconstituted legislatures will then no doubt be considered and your claims for such representation will be duly advanced for consideration by the Commission.

The unfortunate communal conflicts throughout India are undoubtedly a serious menace to progress, which can only come by the assistance of peace and

tranquillity. The advantage of joint electorates over the system at present in force is a question upon which there is divided opinion, but I am convinced that the solving of the problem of communal difficulties is more likely to be attained by a genuine expression of good-will and understanding between the two communities. This will only come when religion is clear of political bias and the communities think more of their duties towards each other and to the nation as a whole, rather than of what they regard as their rights.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity of hearing your views upon the important questions mentioned in your address.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta Police Parade at Lal Bazar on 14th July 1927.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE CALCUTTA POLICE FORCE AND FIRE BRIGADE,

I am pleased to have this opportunity of meeting the officers and men of the Calcutta Police and of the Fire Brigade. This is the first occasion upon which I have had the chance of seeing you at close quarters and I can say without hesitation from your appearance and bearing on parade that you appear worthy of the fine reputation the Force has earned not only in Calcutta, but throughout Bengal.

You of the Police are continuously faced with difficult and exacting situations and the way in which you have done your duty on all occasions is a standing tribute to the leadership in the Force, to your training and to the discipline and sense of duty which pervades the whole Force. There are many examples to the credit of the Force of exceptional personal courage and tactful patient handling of difficult situations. The Government and the public have reason to be grateful for the loyal way in which you have carried out your duties during the past year of exceptional difficulty.

I must take this opportunity of publicly congratulating those members of the Force and Brigade who have earned the coveted distinction of the King's Police Medal. The record of their services and devotion to duty under most trying circumstances should prove an inspiration to the Force and

an example which, I am sure, you will all endeavour to emulate.

To you, Sir Charles Tegart, I offer my congratulations upon your Force, of which you have reason to be proud, as they have reason to be proud of your leadership.

MR. DAVID FISHER,

During your 19 years of service in the Calcutta Police, as an Inspector, an Assistant Commissioner of Police and Officer-in-charge of the Police Training College, you have displayed admirable qualities of tact, foresight and organization. You dealt with the difficult situation arising out of the non-co-operation campaign with commendable patience and skill and you are in a large measure responsible as Assistant Commissioner in charge of the headquarters Force, for raising the standard of discipline and order of that Force. During the regrettable riots of last year you showed a high capacity for organization and initiative, and throughout your service your work has been characterized by great devotion to duty and administrative ability. I congratulate you on the King's Police Medal which has been awarded to you.

SUB-INSPECTOR SATYENDRA NATH MUKHERJEE,

You are one of those officers of the Calcutta Police who contributed largely to the successful suppression of the communal riots of 1926. One notable instance in which you displayed commendable courage and presence of mind, was when on April 4th, 1926, accompanied by three constables you succeeded at great personal risk in effecting the

arrest of a dangerous desperado in face of a hostile and excited crowd of rioters. This man was eventually found guilty of murder and sentenced to death by the High Court. You have admirably carried out your duty in assisting in the suppression of cocaine traffic and gambling in your section of the town. It gives me great pleasure to see your services rewarded by the award of a King's Police Medal.

SERGEANT ROBIN NEIL,

In April 1926 you displayed great courage and commendable perseverance in arresting a desperate hooligan during the riots. On the 3rd of that month you saved the life of a citizen in Machua Bazar Street, who was being mercilessly assaulted by a rioter. You chased the latter into a dwelling house, arrested him and conveyed him in your side-car to the police-station, while being attacked by a hostile and frenzied crowd of rioters for some distance. You also succeeded in breaking up and dispersing several unlawful assemblies and the award of the King's Police Medal is an appropriate recognition of your services.

SERGEANT GEORGE JOHN ADAMSON,

On 25th April 1926, during the second phase of the riots, while in charge of an armoured car, you encountered a large hostile crowd, which attacked the car. You succeeded in dispersing the crowd at the point of your revolver. On the 27th April 1926, you encountered one of the worst mobs in the city. The mob had just murdered a police officer and were looting and murdering in the locality. You broke up the mob, though not without having recourse to

firing. On both the occasions you displayed great gallantry and high qualities of leadership and I congratulate you on the King's Police Medal which has been awarded to you.

MR. FRANK AUSTIN TUCKER,

As the Station Officer, Calcutta Fire Brigade, you have shown great administrative ability and presence of mind. You did exceptionally good work during the fire which occurred at Writers' Buildings in 1921. The task of extinguishing fires during the communal riots of last year was very exacting and you displayed conspicuous ability in meeting the situation. In a measure it was due to your untiring devotion to duty that inspite of the incendiarism indulged in by the rioters, no lives were lost and the fires were prevented from spreading beyond the premises of origin. During the riots you rescued and safely delivered to the Postmaster-General mail bags which were being ransacked by the rioters in a mail van, the driver of which had been murdered. You also rescued a mail van attendant from an assault by the rioters. Your distinguished services have won for you the King's Police Medal and I congratulate you.

His Excellency's Speech at the Convocation of the Dacca University on 11th August 1927.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very sensible of the honour which falls to me to-day of presiding at this Convocation as Chancellor of the University.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, for your kind words of introduction. It is certainly my wish to get into close touch with the Universities, with which, during my stay in India, I shall be associated, and whose progress it will be my duty to foster. So far I have had but a short and casual acquaintance with this University, but I have been able to form a view as to its importance and potential value not only to the Presidency, but also to India as a whole. I shall welcome any opportunity of lending a helping hand in its progress. I must congratulate all those who have proceeded to their degrees to-day and wish them all success in the careers which, I trust, are awaiting them.

My predecessor, Lord Lytton, took special interest in this new University of Eastern Bengal. His own distinguished academic career and his lofty ideals made him your friend, and you found in him an admirable guide in all matters connected with its administration. He exhibited from the first an enthusiasm for your successful progress which you appreciated and duly and rightly acknowledged. I am afraid I can lay no claim to any special academic distinction, but this does not prevent me from admiring and envying those, who have been

more fortunate. The years I spent at the Cambridge University were amongst the happiest of my life, and my experience there enabled me to appreciate all sides of University life and gave me an understanding of human nature which has proved of inestimable value in the varied positions in life I have been called upon to fill. I shall endeavour to acquire some of Lord Lytton's enthusiasm and interest in this University and shall hope to see you progress year by year towards a position of acknowledged usefulness and eminence.

I took the opportunity of reading that portion of the Report of the Sadler Commission which referred to Dacca University, and I was struck by a passage which referred to Newman's ideas of what a University should be. He expressed the view that a University which was merely an examining body for degrees could not compete in the training and turning out of men of character and men likely to make a success of life, with the University which offered residence and tutorial superintendence. I believe that to be absolutely true, and I am glad to note that the idea of those who founded this University was that it should offer a residence and tutorial control to the students.

In this connection I am pleased to hear of the probably early approval of the building of the Moslem Hall. I look forward to the construction of this new Hall and feel sure that it will help towards carrying out one of the main ideas which underlie the foundation of the University, *viz.*, the desire to assist in the intellectual uplift of the Moslems of Eastern Bengal, the combination of whose educational backwardness with numerical superiority

creates such difficult political problems. I have seen the plan of the new Hall which, when carried out, should provide a structure worthy of the object. At the same time it should be your general policy that the University should be open to all and that it should be in no sense a sectarian University. It is only on these lines in my judgment that you will be able to fulfil your mission as a great educational establishment.

It is a matter of regret, which I am sure you will all share with me, that Mr. A. F. Rahman may not be here to see the completion of the building which was his special care. Before I came to Dacca, I had heard of his great work for the Moslems. His loss will be serious but his memory will not be forgotten. I am pleased to learn from you that your Hindu colleagues are unanimous in wishing for the fulfilment of your great scheme without delay, and at the same time to be able to tell you that the scheme is nearing the stage of formal approval by Government, and you should soon be in a position to begin the building.

I have been greatly struck by the Vice-Chancellor's statement with reference to the poor circumstances of a large number of Muhammadan students. It is estimated that 62 per cent. of the Muhammadan students present at this University belong to families whose conditions of life make it almost impossible for them to provide for the students' education at the University. Students in such a position can never be free from anxiety which must make it impossible for them to take full advantage of the opportunities the University life affords. The Vice-Chancellor makes an appeal, with

which I heartily associate myself, to the Muḥammadans of wealth and position, to come forward and to provide funds in the interests of those members of their community so unfortunately placed. It should be possible to raise funds for scholarships and stipends to enable the young men of the University with intellect and ability to make the most of the University life and I now ask for generous response to the appeal.

There is another aspect of this question which needs serious consideration, whether young men in such a position, unless endowed with special ability, are likely to make the best use of their lives by attending the Universities, instead of attempting to fit themselves for some employment where a University training is not of vital importance. The University must be looked upon as a means to to an end—not an end itself.

The creation of a Department of Botany and Bacteriology has engaged my attention recently. I enquired into the question whether there ~~was~~ a shortage of facilities in Bengal for the study of Botany and Bacteriology. I found that in Botany at least there is no shortage. Whilst realizing the value of the learning for its own sake, I think your proposal must be read from the point of view of the economic value of the course proposed. What you tell me, therefore, about the intimate connection which will exist between the proposed development and the Manipur Agricultural Institute is important. For in view of the need for development of the resources of the country, I am convinced that in creating new scientific departments we should have special regard to the question whether they can

contribute to the economic development of the country or in some other way to its welfare.

I am convinced that science and scientific research can help us in Bengal in our fight for economic salvation, and when you can prove to me that any contemplated scientific development will help the people of Bengal, you may rely on my support.

As regards the University Training Corps. The Government of Bengal felt unable to support the University of Calcutta in their request for compulsory military service for all students. They, however, enunciated it as their policy to press for the expansion of the corps especially in the mofussil colleges.

In the report of the Shea Committee it is stated :—

“The University Training Corps should be allowed to expand up to its natural limits, subject only to financial considerations permitting of this. The military authorities should place no obstacle in the way of any University or College forming a contingent of the University Training Corps, provided that the University or College authorities can guarantee a fixed minimum number of members and can provide suitable officers.”

I am glad to learn there is some likelihood of sanction to a beginning in Dacca being obtained shortly, and I trust that the students will take advantage of an interesting and useful side of University life.

There is one side of University life, by no means the least important, upon which I should like to

say a few words. The development of, and the sober indulgence in, athletics and games in such a University as Dacca should receive every encouragement. I believe that the lessons to be learnt upon the playing fields in games fairly and strenuously played are of inestimable value in the formation of character. The development of qualities of courage, self-control, resolution and decision, combined with full advantage taken of the intellectual opportunities offered by the University, may help to produce those all round men of character and attainment who have led the world. I personally shall watch your progress in this respect with exceptional interest.

Judging by all I see around me, and from your report, I can congratulate you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, and the staff, upon the satisfactory progress of the University under your guidance. I trust this may continue.

His Excellency's Reply to Addresses presented at Khulna on 18th July 1927.

I am most grateful for the cordial welcome, so kindly extended to my wife and me by the local bodies and people at Khulna, on this my first visit to Eastern Bengal in my capacity as Governor of this Presidency. Such an expression of your goodwill is a great encouragement to us for the task we have before us. Addresses have been presented from three bodies, namely, the Municipality, the District Board and the Muhammadan Association. I wish I could reply to each of them separately, but the time at my disposal will not permit of it. I must ask you to accept the assurance that I have most carefully studied all the matters referred to in the addresses and I have handed them on to the Departments concerned for their attention and, where possible, action.

A subject, to which you naturally wish to draw my attention, is the condition of the waterways in your district. You are concerned about the change in the courses of the rivers and their deterioration, and also the serious menace to your town by the encroachment of the river Bhairab.

In two addresses my attention is called to the major problem of the feasibility of the resuscitation of the rivers Kabadak, Betna and Bhola and to the smaller problem of the reclamation of such connecting khafs as the Alaipur and Bemorta. The problem of the decay of the rivers has been engaging the attention of the Irrigation Department for many years. Mr. Addams-Williams, Irrigation Officer,

whose knowledge of the waterways of Bengal is unique, has spent the best part of his official life in studying this problem, and so important do we consider it, that it has been decided to relieve him of some of his administrative work, to enable him to devote more time to problems on the spot. Whatever difference of opinion there may be, this much at least is clear, that none of us can think the geographical conditions to be so simple that it is only necessary to open up, by dredging, the heads of the rivers at their junction with the main stream of the Padma, and that vast economic and health advantages will follow. I am told by the experts that this presents one of the most difficult problems of river conservancy; large sums of money may be spent and after a single rains go for nothing, as the Padma constantly shifts and the subsidiary rivers become mere spills for its surplus water.

As regards the danger to agriculture and health of the inroads of saline water in the area referred to in the address, one might be content to suggest that, if embankments can be provided, the problem will be solved and the river water get the upperhand. It is just these embankments, however, where they have been extensively erected, that have hastened the decay of the rivers, by preventing the river water from spilling over the country and depositing its silt, with the consequent possibility of the channel of the river itself remaining deep and open. The Irrigation Department does not approve a general system of embanking of the rivers by strong embankments but has no objection to small marginal embankments to keep out salt water in the dry season. During the rains the water in most of the

river is sweet and is used extensively for irrigation. The general embanking of rivers in this Province and elsewhere has been found to bring about disaster sooner or later and this is exactly what has recently occurred on the Mississippi river in America. Here in Bengal I need only quote the case of the Damodar river.

To meet all these difficulties the Provincial Government is endeavouring by every means in its power to solve the major problem of the decay of rivers, by the provision of through waterways for communication, and it is the function of local bodies to endeavour with the advice of the expert departments of Government, to initiate and carry through schemes for the reclamation of the smaller waterways and for the drainage of water-logged areas.

The progress that has been made, not only in this district but all over Bengal, under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvements Act has been somewhat disappointing. The Act gave rise to a large number of schemes in this district, as in others. Owing, however, to an unwillingness to take advantage of the proposed schemes and to find the cost of the preliminary surveys, because of the possibility of a scheme being ultimately found unworkable; and owing to the hesitation on the part of local bodies to advance any part of the cost, to be recouped by the Collector from the areas, many of the schemes have come to nothing. It should always be remembered, however, that any Act of this type must prove infructuous, unless local bodies are prepared to finance and carry out schemes with the help of the Collector and the expert departments of Government. In the case of approved

schemes, Government are, as the rules allow, prepared sometimes to advance the cost of preliminary enquiry. In the case of the Bhutiar Beel Scheme, which the Collector considers one of the most urgent in this district and very promising, Government will advance Rs. 1,500 towards the cost and will further contribute the departmental charges for the enquiry which are estimated at Rs. 775.

A great factor in political progress is the growth of local self-government under the Village Self-Government Act. I congratulate the people of this district on the progress recently made in the constitution of Union Boards, 112 of which are now working. I see that the Union Boards of Khulna raised an income of Rs. 1,21,685 and received a contribution of Rs. 29,054 from the District Board. The District Board complain of their activities being retarded for want of grants from Government, but the devolution of powers means the devolution of responsibility. Government gives an augmentation grant to the District Board. But Government does not, and should not, deal directly in matters of finance with its subsidiary bodies—the Local and Union Boards, after it has set up the machinery, by which they have sources of income in self-taxation and in grants from their parent District Boards. It is the duty of the District Board to contribute to the Union Boards as much as it is able, and I am pleased to see that in Khulna you have adopted the sound principle of making your contribution proportionate to the self-help shown by the Union Boards and the amount of taxes, which they themselves succeed in raising.

Before dealing with some of the needs you have catalogued with such completeness, both of this

Municipality and of the district as a whole, I should like to refer to two further matters of provincial importance. The first is the representation of the Muhammadan community in the self-governing institutions of the Province and in the public services. The community now succeeds, by way of the ordinary elections for the local bodies of Eastern Bengal, in getting at least an adequate share of representation. In the Provincial Council their representation is secured by the statutory provision of communal electorates. In most of the public services under the Local Government orders have been issued laying down a proportionate number of Muhammadans, to redress communal inequalities. At the same time it must be understood that no Government can override the claims of the efficiency of the public services, in an endeavour to secure a mathematically proportionate representation, based merely upon population. It should be our unremitting aim to attain a position, where it shall no longer be necessary to secure by safeguards, special representation of any particular community. This will eventually be attained when full advantage is taken of education, primary or otherwise, and all sections and classes have equal opportunities. A Bill for the organization of and the provision of finance for universal primary education has been prepared and will be introduced in the Council at the earliest opportunity. I hope you will be able to request your representatives to support the measure.

I am gratified at the reference in the Muhammadan Association address to the desirability of legislation for compulsory primary education and

the belief in the willingness of the country to bear the taxation necessary for the attainment of that great object. All of us should work to ensure that the machinery and finance is forthcoming to take away the reproach from Bengal of having a Council electorate, about 50 per cent. of which is illiterate. Constitutional advance and universal education are mutually interdependent. Our zeal for the former should be animated by no less enthusiasm for the attainment of the latter.

I appreciate your desire to raise the status of the Middle English School for girls to that of a High School and Government will view sympathetically the question of a capital grant for this purpose.

The members of the District Board have referred me to their rural health organization scheme. Government are prepared to subsidise District Boards practically to the extent of the full cost of all rural health units established. In respect, however, to institutions, such as the charitable dispensary and the Woodburn Hospital referred to in the Municipal address, Government have never made themselves responsible for recurring costs, but have confined assistance to such hospitals to capital grants for major improvements.

The provision of a good and sufficient water-supply is of direct concern to every local body in Bengal. I recognize what has been done by the District Board of Khulna in this respect and their endeavours to discharge their responsibilities by taking a loan from Government. Neither the District Board nor Government can undertake the enormous task of supplying every village with

a well and maintaining it. The policy of Government is to encourage local effort by giving subsidies. Rupees 70,000 have been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, of which your district has got its share to supplement local resources. It is expected that the aim will be to obtain a third of the cost of wells from the District Board and a third from the villages benefited. The District Board should refuse to spend money, except by way of supplementing local effort.

In this district I am pleased to be able to congratulate you all on the absence of communal strife. I earnestly appeal to every one in this district and particularly to the religious leaders to do all they can to lead their co-religionists along paths of peace.

As to the Kulkati case, I have given and shall continue to give to it my personal attention but I can make no public statement as to the conclusions arrived at in the enquiry, so long as the criminal case is *sub judice*. This much at least I can affirm, that the most careful and impartial enquiry has been made into the unfortunate incident and all that led up to it.

Lady Jackson and myself have greatly enjoyed this opportunity of visiting your town and getting an insight into the life and needs of the people of this part of Bengal and particularly of making acquaintance with the work and progress of local bodies, and we thank you for the hearty welcome you have accorded us in your addresses.

***His Excellency's Address to Rai Jatindra
Nath Ghose Bahadur at Khulna, when
handing him the Sanad of his Title on
18th July 1927.***

RAI JATINDRA NATH GHOSE BAHADUR,

You have been doing the duties of Vice-Chairman, District Board, Khulna, with conspicuous success and you are associated with every public movement in the district. It was due to your devoted efforts as Honorary Secretary that the Khulna Co-operative Central Bank has made such remarkable progress in a comparatively short time. I congratulate you on the title awarded to you.

His Excellency's Address to Scout Hrishikesh Shaha at Khulna, when presenting him with the "Gilt Cross for Gallantry" on 18th July 1927.

SCOUT HRISHIKESH SHAHA,

On 25th April 1926 a man fell from the ferry boat at Delta Ghat on the Bhairab. The river was flowing swiftly and no one dared to come to his rescue. After great difficulty you brought him ashore, resuscitated him and saved his life. In recognition of this act of gallantry His Excellency the Chief Scout for India and Burma has been pleased to award to you a "Gilt Cross for Gallantry."

His Excellency the Chief Scout directs me to convey to you his congratulations and to these I add my own. I have great pleasure in presenting you with the Cross.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening
of the Co-operative Central Bank
Building, Khulna, on 18th July 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity of performing the opening ceremony of the Khulna Central Co-operative Bank Building. I have been much interested to hear of the progress of this kind of co-operative movement in Bengal and I am satisfied that it deserves every encouragement. The progress of the Bank has been most satisfactory, and I congratulate the Directors upon the success which has attended their efforts.

When you commenced, in 1917, you had only 51 Rural Societies affiliated to your Central Bank and a working capital of Rs. 27,000, whereas now, only ten years later, you have 192 affiliated societies and a working capital of nearly three lakhs.

While I fully realize the progress you have made in organizing rural credit, I hope that you will not be content with confining your activities to this side of the co-operative movement. It is true you have not had much success in the sphere of organizing small industries and public health and rural hygiene, though you have endeavoured to take your part. If, however, you do not launch out and apply the principles of co-operation to production and to sale and supply, there is even a danger in the mere granting of cheap credit to the cultivators, who do business with you. Your Directors admit that deposits have had to be refused owing to the want

of a field for profitable investment. This proves that there is a limit to the advantages of cheap loans to cultivators. You might perhaps consider the possibility of making the movement in this district something more than an organization to give loans on mortgage at a low rate of interest.

Stores and Supply Societies you tell me have had little success. I would not venture to teach you your business, but I understand that, where agricultural purchase and sale societies have been opened, they have proved successful. It is in this direction that it seems to me there is a future in the handling and marketing of your own products through the co-operative movement. The people of Bengal, whether *bhadralok* or cultivators, can materially improve their position and the people of the soil get a chance of a share in the profit to be made by marketing their produce. At present these profits largely go to the pockets of people from outside Bengal, who have had the courage to apply capital and business experience to the marketing of the products of the province.

I now have pleasure to declare the Bank open and wish you long and increasing success.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Barisal on 20th July 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I must express my thanks for the generous and cordial welcome so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself to-day, upon the occasion of our first visit to Barisal, and to assure you that we greatly appreciate your good wishes for the success of our term of office in Bengal.

I gratefully acknowledge your expressions of loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

It is most gratifying to me to be presented with addresses from such important and representative bodies as—

The Municipality of Barisal,
The District Board of Bakarganj,
The Barisal Anjuman-i-Hemayet-i-Islam,
The Bakarganj Landholders' Association, and
The Bakarganj Liberal Association.

I have listened to your addresses with care and interest and I should have been pleased had I been able to reply to them individually, but the limited time at my disposal obliges me to ask you to accept a combined reply. Numerous important questions are referred to in the various addresses which I have read with care and they will be handed to departments responsible for immediate consideration. I propose, however, to refer to certain of the matters

enumerated in the addresses, which I believe to be of special interest and concern to the people of this district.

I have come here by river and I have had the opportunity of seeing the waterways, which are your present means of direct communication with Calcutta. The waterways in this district are the natural means of transport, and, if properly developed, should prove the most economic. I note, however, that you express a desire for direct railway communication with Calcutta, and I can appreciate your wishes in this respect in view of the size and growing importance of your town.

The development of railway communications between Calcutta and Barisal has been minutely examined in every aspect. The most direct line from Calcutta to Barisal would be *via* Gaurnadi, Gopalganj and Khulna, but examination of this alignment by surveyors shows that the difficulties of construction of a railway on this line would be very great, owing to the bridging of numerous waterways, which would be most costly. Moreover, it appears that the embankments would run across the line of the drainage and would entail very extensive culverting, without which the health and agricultural output of the country, through which the railways pass, would be prejudiced. Another suggested alignment was from Faridpur *via* Charmaguria and Gaurnadi to Barisal, which was surveyed by the Eastern Bengal Railway Company. The remunerative nature of a line through these places depended upon the construction of a harbour at Charmaguria, but the Engineers informed the Agent that it would be impossible to construct and

keep open a harbour there. This being so, the Railway Company could not hope to compete with the Steamer Companies in the economic carriage of freight to Calcutta.

The Government and the Railway Company will, however, continue to give earnest attention to the problem of linking this populous and prosperous countryside by railway with Calcutta. Meanwhile in the Steamer Companies, I am glad to know, you have efficient waterborne transport and a reasonably quick and regular passenger service.

The increase of the water hyacinth pest, which is seriously obstructing the free passage of river traffic throughout Eastern Bengal and threatening the public health and agricultural prosperity, is receiving the Government's anxious consideration. The Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Ghuznavi, is at present occupied in making a close investigation of the subject and a meeting has been called at Dacca of those acquainted with the situation, with a view to eliciting opinion as to the lines upon which the pest can be attacked, and the kind of legislation which might be required for the purpose of endeavouring to eradicate it. It is obvious that drastic action is necessary, and that at once. Any method, which it is eventually decided to adopt, must entail concerted and simultaneous action throughout the whole affected area.

I have carefully noted your request for assistance in various ways towards the improvement of agricultural conditions upon which the vast majority of the people in this district depend. The Anjuman in their address express the view that

primary education and the improvement of agriculture go hand in hand. This is fundamentally true. Government have drafted an Education Bill and a Tenancy Bill, which, it is hoped, will come before the Legislative Council in the near future. The first Bill endeavours to set up the machinery and find the finance for the establishment of schools all over rural areas, and the second Bill endeavours to stabilise the law relating to the relations between landlord and tenant. You will have an opportunity of studying the provisions of these Bills and, if you approve, of instructing your representatives in the Council as to the attitude they should take towards them. It is to the interests of the owners of land that they should have an educated tenantry capable of understanding and turning to account the principles by which agriculture can be improved and able to appreciate that the prosperity of landlords and tenants is interdependent.

In Barisal the Agricultural Department have a farm of 20 acres, 14 acres of which are typical balam paddy land. During the last three years the department has experimented with fine and heavy yielding varieties of balam paddy and as a result of intra-varietal selection some nine strains of balam paddy have been selected, which appear to be 15 per cent. better yielders. The selected races will be multiplied and eventually distributed. The popularizing of heavy yielding strains should greatly increase the agricultural outturn.

I note with regret that cattle disease is prevalent in this district. The remedy for this is preventive inoculation. Government are doing all in their power to encourage local bodies to establish Veterinary

dispensaries and are prepared to supply serum for inoculation, free of charge, to District Boards.

I note with pleasure a large number of educational institutions in your town, including a first grade college. I agree with you in your desire for increased technical education. The scheme for the reorganization of the Government Technical School at Barisal has been administratively approved. It is hoped that Government will be able to allot funds for this work in 1928-29.

There is a request in all the addresses for the establishment of a medical school in Barisal, attached to the local hospital. Owing to the generosity of one of your townsmen, Mr. N. Gupta, who has offered three-quarters of a lakh towards the cost, it looks as though your desires will be realized. I must pay a tribute to Mr. Gupta for his generosity and public spirit. It is very right that such action should be commemorated by naming the school after the donor, who has made possible its early completion. I also acknowledge the public spirit of Dr. Tarini Nath Saha in bequeathing his fortune for the hospital—a worthy example, which I should like to see followed by others. There are, however, certain conditions, which must be met, to ensure Government assistance and enable the school to become a reality at an early date. As the school will be attached to the local hospital, it is necessary to enlarge the hospital to a 100 bed capacity, and provision should be made locally for the recurring expenditure required for its efficient maintenance. If a genuine local effort is forthcoming to back up Mr. Gupta, I feel sure you will find a ready response from Government.

One of the most important factors for the health of the town is a good water-supply. I appreciate your desire to better your supply of filtered water, which was first established in the year 1912. The Chief Engineer of the Public Health Department considered your scheme and returned it to you for modification of the financial proposals. I advise you to return your scheme to the Chief Engineer, when you have complied with his instructions, and I can assure you that it will have the most careful consideration of Government.

I cannot close my reply without referring to the unfortunate communal tension existing in this district, which a short time ago culminated in serious disturbances. In the addresses of the Municipal Commissioners, the Landholders, and the Liberal Association references are made to the problem, which in their moderation of expression, and faith that good-will and sanity will eventually prevail, constitute both for myself and for my Government a ground for optimism that the vexed question is capable of solution. I appreciate the spirit which has actuated the attempt to form peace committees—an example which might be followed by all influential bodies with advantage. The tension of feeling in the Bakarganj district, and the incidents arising therefrom, have been under the anxious consideration of Government for many months, and one of the first problems that beset me, on my arrival, was how to restore good relations between these two great communities. It ought to be possible for both communities to practise their respective religious devotions without giving cause for offence or resentment to others. Spokesmen of

both sides are apt to deal solely with the rights of their communities and rarely, if ever, show any signs of recognizing the fact that all of us have duties as well as rights, and that one of our main duties is to do to others as we would they should do unto us. The Government will jealously guard the established rights of each community, whilst demanding observance in such a way as to avoid disturbance of the public peace. I call upon the leaders of both sides, as well as all men of goodwill, to restrain their co-religionists from any action, which may disturb the peace of mind of all who worship and of the general mass of both communities.

In conclusion I again thank you all, gentlemen, for your kind addresses of welcome, and the thorough way in which you have put before me your ideas for the benefit of your town and district."

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Dacca on 22nd July 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is most gratifying that, on the occasion of my first visit to this historic city, I should be accorded such a generous reception. The welcome, which you so kindly extend to my wife and me, is a great encouragement, and will strengthen us for the task which lies before us. These annual visits, to which I look forward, provide an opportunity of making myself acquainted with the problems which face us in connection with civic and district administration, and will enable me, by personal touch, to appreciate the conditions and requirements of the people.

I acknowledge your expression of loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor.

There are few cities in India which afford a more interesting or fascinating field for study to the students of history than your ancient city of Dacca. Its products were renowned throughout the world. You still retain some of the old arts and crafts and the old skilled workmanship, and these we look forward to inspecting in the near future.

I regret that owing to the limited time at my disposal I am prevented from replying to each individual address, but I have read them all and carefully noted and investigated the various matters to which you request attention. I have discussed many of the subjects with the members of my Government and the departments directly concerned and you may be assured that they shall all receive the attention they deserve. I must at the same

time thank you for putting before me your views on many important matters bearing directly upon the lives and conditions of the people of Dacca.

I note that there is a general request for the construction of the Dacca-Aricha Railway. The Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway recently reported in connection with the railway programme that the evidence received up to the present tended to show that the construction of this line was worthy of early consideration. I am glad to know that the project occupies a prominent place in the provincial programme submitted recently by the Government of Bengal to the Railway Board, with whom sanction for the construction of the line rests.

You draw my attention to the great increase of motor traffic and the imperative necessity of maintaining roads in a condition capable of carrying this traffic, and at the same time of securing from the motor car owners some contribution towards the up-keep of the roads which they use. This problem has been engaging the attention of Government. The question of taxation of motor vehicles has been dealt with by a Special Committee and their report is shortly to come before Government in the Local Self-Government Department. The Committee recommend that the Provincial Government should be the taxing and registering authority for motor vehicles. It is proposed, from the proceeds of motor taxation, to create a road fund for distribution to local authorities in charge of roads for the purpose of road improvement. The Government of India are, however, considering this matter from an all-India point of view and our decision must be conditional upon the conclusions arrived at on their enquiry.

With regard to the repair of the Dacca-Narain-gunge Road and the provision of a new bridge over the Dholai Khal, these are obviously matters for which the local bodies concerned are themselves responsible. To provincialise the road from Dacca to Naraingunge would not, I think, at present be possible. Such a concession would lead to endless demands which Government could not meet. In the event, however, of a provincial road fund being formed, this road would be considered, in common with other roads of importance in the Province.

In this district the river communications are not less important than those by road and railway. You draw my attention to the deterioration of the Dhaleshwari, Buriganga and Lakhya rivers, and the resultant sanitation problem and difficulties of trade communications. The deterioration of the Buriganga and Dhaleshwari has been engaging the attention of the Irrigation Department for some years. The Buriganga is dependent for its water on the Dhaleshwari, which, owing to the intake from the Brahmaputra being blocked with bars, has itself in the dry season little head supply. The Department propose to dredge some of the bars on the upper reaches of the river. This is likely to be more remedial than cutting through bends or making a cut to the Dhaleshwari to shorten the Buriganga. Such cuts might lead to a complete change in the river system. Rivers which flow through fine alluvium are very sensitive, and there is always the risk of bringing about a major change which might be disastrous to the country. I am assured, however, that there is no reason to suppose that Dacca is likely to be cut off from a water-supply, as the river of Dacca is in the dry season fed by tides.

The scheme for the canalisation of the Dholai Khal, which passes through Dacca town, has been under the examination of the Department of Irrigation, and should be ready in a few weeks. The difficulty to be surmounted is the possibility of the locking of the channel causing silting. The most important desideratum is to have a reserve fund for periodical clearances. This will be possible if locking is avoided and for the present at least it should be avoided.

The Municipal Commissioners express anxiety about their sanitary schemes. As regards the sewerage scheme, I am informed that the 25 lakhs granted by Government, for the purpose of providing a sewerage scheme for the town on modern lines, proved insufficient to enable you to complete the sewers in the outlying portion of the city, owing to the rise in the price of materials. This grant was given on a condition that the Commissioners would spend 5 lakhs on opening out conservancy passages. I am informed this has not been done. I suggest that you will find Government more ready to consider further assistance when you have completed that part of the scheme, for which you undertook the responsibility. I advise you to complete your share of the sewerage scheme, before you embark on a new project of surface drainage.

The present financial condition of the Municipality would not appear to admit of contracting any further loans beyond that proposed for the waterworks extension scheme, which is to cost 4½ lakhs. This project contemplates a loan from Government of 1½ lakhs and a Government grant of

one-third of a lakh. The revised scheme is to come before the August meeting of the Sanitary Board.

Turning now to the subject of education, I am looking forward to the opportunity of visiting for the first time the University of Dacca of which, through my position as Governor of the Presidency, I am the Chancellor. I am referred in the address of the Peoples' Association to matters concerning representation upon the Court and Council of the University. At this moment I may perhaps be excused from making any definite pronouncement upon such a far-reaching question. The present constitution, however, has only been established 5 or 6 years and it appears to be giving satisfaction to the majority of the people of Eastern Bengal.

As to the faculties of the University, Government have just accepted the proposal for the establishment of a Department of Botany and Bacteriology, the details of which are at present under consideration. The provision of so-called vocational education cannot in itself solve what you term "the pressing bread problem." A course of mechanical engineering in the University would be likely to turn out merely Engineering graduates instead of trained Engineers and would, I think, prove of doubtful advantage owing to the lack of openings for practical training. It is generally considered that it would be better to concentrate engineering instruction in the Engineering College of Sibpur which, alone, can produce more students than there are at present openings for. It seems, therefore, very doubtful whether we should embark upon the provision of an engineering faculty at Dacca at present.

With regard to the department of medicine, it may be mentioned that there is a large and successful medical school in Dacca at the present time, and that in the present state of Bengal, it is more essential to provide a much larger number of licentiates of medical schools than to develop a new medical college at Dacca. In the opinion of Government it was still premature to establish another medical college at this place.

Several addresses deal with the present unhappy communal dissensions. They apparently originate through the mistaken enthusiasm of a few for the maintenance of certain rights, real or supposed, which they attempt to convince their fellow religionists are being interfered with. This mistaken leadership is too readily followed by the ignorant and thoughtless.

I have been impressed by the obviously genuine desire of responsible leaders of both communities that a spirit of good-will should replace that of recrimination and that the Government will endeavour to find a formula through which they can live and let live. This is the only policy by which the two communities can live together in harmony and concord.

I am very grateful for the cordial welcome extended to me by your several important local bodies I look forward with hope, and some confidence, that the good-will, so generously extended to me at this early period of my Governorship, will not grow less through better acquaintance.

***His Excellency's Address to the recipients
of Sanads at the Durbar at Dacca on
25th July 1927.***

RAI TARIT BHUSAN ROY BAHADUR,

You have shown great ability in connection with public affairs, and your liberal contributions to various war funds and to charities, your active loyalty and the influence, which you exercised during the war, are well remembered, and I congratulate you upon the title which has been awarded to you.

KHAN BAHADUR SAIYID MAUZZAM-UD-DIN HUSAIN,

When you were still a junior member of the Provincial Civil Service, Government recognized your conspicuous services by conferring on you the title of Khan Sahib in 1918. Since then your consistently meritorious work has earned for you the title of Khan Bahadur.

RAI DEBENDRA CHANDRA MAZUMDAR BAHADUR,

In recognition of your unswerving active loyalty Government bestowed upon you the title of Rai Sahib in 1923. By the ready and invaluable help, which you have always given to local officers as an Honorary Magistrate and a Member of the District and Local Boards, you have merited this higher title.

RAI SATYA PRASANNA GHOSH BAHADUR,

You held the position of Assistant Public Prosecutor of Dacca for 15 years and since your appointment as Public Prosecutor in 1923, you have done excellent work, which has won for you this distinction.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI HAKIM AFSARUDDIN AHMAD,

You have displayed exceptional zeal and energy in your work as President of the Kathiadi Union Board. You have been responsible for effecting many improvements in the village, and your efficient administration of the Union, impartial services on the Union Bench and Court, and activities in the cause of Local Self-Government have been much appreciated, and it gives me great pleasure to present you with your sanad.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI WAHIDAN NABI,

For your excellent services as an Honorary Magistrate for a long period, as an elected Chairman of the Faridpur Sadar Local Board and as President of the Kaijuri Union Board, you have been suitably rewarded by the grant to you of the title of Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ASHRAF HUSAIN,

The Jamalpur Municipality has been efficiently administered upon sound and vigorous lines during your Chairmanship. You have thus materially contributed to the successful advancement of Local Self-Government. You have also exercised a moderating influence in communal questions and your services have been recognized by Government by the conferment upon you of the title of Khan Sahib.

RAI SAHIB NRIPENDRA MOHAN RAY,

You have rendered special service as President of the Baira Union Board and shown great activity in public life. You were responsible for the foundation of a school intended to foster primary

and vocational education, and the organization of a number of co-operative societies, some of which are for women, for the development of home industries, and these services are now recognized by the award to you of the title, the sanad of which I have the pleasure to hand to you to-day.

RAI SAHIB JYOTISH CHANDRA BHATTACHARJI,

You have rendered distinguished services in the cause of Local Self-Government in Faridpur. As a member of the Gopalganj Local Board and as President of the Ghagore Union Board since its constitution five years ago, your work has been much appreciated by the local officers and you command the entire confidence of the local people. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB ASWINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI,

You have an excellent record of service extending over 30 years in the Jail Department, and you have throughout maintained the high quality of your work, which should be emulated by others in the service.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD,

You entered the service of Government in 1907 and were appointed to the Bengal Educational Service in 1920. You have been unsparing in your zeal to help forward the cause of Muhammadan education and you organized the work of the Madrasahs in the Rajshahi Division on sound lines.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL JUBBAR BHUYAN,

You have introduced free primary education in the Maijkan Union Board. You have been

administering the Board, Bench, and Court, under the Village Self-Government Act, with conspicuous success, and this has earned for you the title of Khan Sahib.

RAI SAHIB GURU PRASAD MITRA,

You have rendered meritorious service in the Civil Medical Department, which you entered in 1902. You have acquitted yourself very creditably as a teacher in Medical Schools for a number of years and the title is an appropriate recognition of your services.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA MOHAN CHAKRABATTI,

You have done valuable work as President of the Jamalpur Union Board, Faridpur, in appreciation of which Government have honoured you with the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB ASWINI KUMAR SEN,

You entered Government service in 1892, and have worked with great ability in the office of the Board of Revenue from 1905 till your retirement in 1926. This coupled with the efficient manner in which you are doing the duties as Manager, Mainland, Group of Wards Estates, Doulatkhan, Bakarganj, has been appropriately recognized by Government by the grant to you of the title of Rai Sahib.

His Excellency's Speech at the Police Parade, Dacca, on 26th July 1927.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BENGAL POLICE,

I am very pleased that my visit to Dacca affords me this opportunity of inspecting a large number of the Bengal Police Force, and of presenting medals and rewards to those officers and men who have done exceptional service and thereby earned public recognition.

It is always a pleasure to me to see a smart, well turned out Force on parade and I can certainly congratulate you upon your fine appearance and bearing ; but it is an even greater satisfaction to be able to express on behalf of Government my high appreciation of your admirable record of service during the past year. The volume of serious crime throughout the Presidency during the last year has shown a marked decrease. Crimes against property show a great reduction, the figures of burglary and theft being the lowest recorded since 1912. These results have only been possible through the efficient organization and the ceaseless and fearless devotion to duty of the officers and men of the Police Forces.

The unfortunate communal disturbances, which have occurred in various districts of this Presidency, have severely tested the efficiency and discipline of the Police and of the Armed Force, as well as of the Eastern Bengal Frontier Rifles. It must be admitted by all that you have come through the test with exceptional credit. The tasks which the Police and the Armed Force must undertake, whether of normal or exceptional character, in the maintenance of Law and Order and the protection of the public, call for qualities of courage, discipline, decision and self-control to an extraordinary degree. Their proper

exercise may quell disturbance and save life and property, as, on the other hand, a small mistake or a false move may end in disaster. The public expect all these qualities in the Police.

I feel inclined to ask what have the Police a right to expect from the public? They feel they should have their confidence and their co-operation and that they should be assured that their conditions of service, especially as regards accommodation, medical attention and pay, should be appropriate to the responsibilities they are expected to carry. Every man who joins the Force should be able to feel a pride in the service and satisfaction with his work. Admission to the Force should be eagerly sought after. Under such conditions alone can the public hope to obtain the efficient and incorruptible service they demand. The record of the police service in Bengal should warrant public confidence, as it is shown that out of a force of 23,000, convictions for misdemeanour amounted to less than a quarter of 1 per cent.

I am glad to note that Government are aware of certain conditions of service in the Police Force requiring improvement, and that they are now considering the provision of housing and hospital accommodation. The main object of the Police should be so to conduct themselves that they are regarded by the ordinary public as their friends and not merely as an instrument of Government. They should at the same time be a salutary reminder of the Law to the evil-doer.

I must congratulate those members of the Forces, whose services have been rewarded to-day. Their record should be a cause of pride to their comrades and an example worthy of emulation

His Excellency's Speech at the Union Board Conference, Dacca, on 26th July 1927.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to you for the address you have been good enough to present me. It is particularly gratifying to me that my first acquaintance with the working of the Union Boards, established under the Village Self-Government Act of 1919, should be made in this district of Dacca. From the first, the people here have appreciated that this measure meant the establishment of real self-government in Bengal, beginning from an administrative unit, which is the smallest that can be reasonably and efficiently worked by rural local bodies, namely an average area of about 10 square miles with a population of from 6,000 to 8,000 inhabitants. It is vain to regret that 50 years or more ago, instead of beginning with District Boards as the units for local self-government purposes, Government did not establish village unions like the present, combining powers of taxation for village protection through the watch and ward kept by the chaukidars, with those of taxation for the betterment of sanitation, communications, health, education and all the manifold necessities of corporate life and based upon the elective principle by which there shall be no taxation without representation. Though, however, we were late in seeing that local self-government should begin in the village, we in Bengal have now had seven years in which to create responsible and efficient self-governing rural organizations throughout the Province.

It is a matter for regret that only a little more than one-third of the unions contemplated over the whole Province have actually been established and are working. In some districts misrepresentation and misunderstanding have been rife. Government wisely used the machinery of circle officers, able to be in personal contact with the people, instead of impersonal rules or circulars. These officers act as missionaries for the uplift of the villages, preaching self-government and self-help. Despite this it has been alleged that the Act places too much power in the hands of the Executive officers of Government. Furthermore the incidence of taxation for general purposes, though small and only imposed by the will of the unions themselves, has been, I regret to say, misrepresented as a hardship on the people.

In this district, however, I am told by your local officers that, from the beginning, the Boards have been popular and their opportunities for good work appreciated. Even in the first year 130 Boards were established, in all four subdivisions of the district. Now you have 285 Boards actually working, and very soon, with the exception of some areas, where the land is subject to alluvion and dilluvion and the population scattered and constantly changing, the whole district will be covered with self-governing unions.

There are several indications of the popularity and usefulness of your Boards. The percentage of attendance of voters is quite high and the number of candidates for election numerous and increasing. Practically all the Boards are no longer satisfied with taxation under section 37 (a) for payment of the village watch. I find that in 1925-26 the Boards

spent the following sums under several heads on works of public utility :—

			Rs,
(1) Communications	50,566
(2) Drainage and sanitation	18,010
(3) Water-supply (including Govern- ment grant)	46,988
(4) Primary education	21,954
(5) Dispensaries	6,375
Total			1,43,893

I have been reading with the greatest interest the account of your conference of last year, in which you discussed many matters including procedure, suggested changes in legislation, the increase of powers to your bodies, and various ways and means of bettering your life and health. Government have given in the Local Self-Government Department the closest attention to the conclusions arrived at in your deliberations. Some of the questions you dealt with, such as that of the reorganization of the electoral system for rural local bodies, and the abolition of the Local Boards are now under the consideration of the Local Self-Government Department.

I am particularly impressed by the possibility of the attainment of speedy justice in petty disputes and suits constituted by the existence of no less than 150 Union Benches and Courts. There has been a progressive decrease in suits for money and moveables, instituted before the Munsifs, owing to the increasing readiness of the public to use the Union Courts. In some quarters there is a certain amount of apprehension owing to there being no sign of a

decrease in petty criminal cases in most areas, where Union Benches have been established. I myself, however, am not apprehensive that this fact can at present be used to support the age-old contention that the provision of more and more facilities for Courts only increases the alleged litigious spirit of the people. For my part I think that these Courts and Benches give every man an opportunity speedily and cheaply to get his causes settled by his own people and prevent the ordinary Courts being used illegitimately for false and vexatious cases, brought out of exasperation by some who have failed to get justice in small disputes between neighbour and neighbour.

I wish success to your deliberations, the outcome of which I trust will prove useful and beneficial and enable you to solve some of the problems of village government. I look forward to visiting, during my tours, some more unions and seeing for myself what has been done by keen and patriotic boards for the betterment of village life. I congratulate the Union Boards of Dacca on the example they have shown to the Province.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Water Hyacinth Conference at Dacca
on 28th July 1927.***

GENTLEMEN, .

We have met here to-day to consider a matter of serious concern to Government and of vital importance to the inhabitants of Eastern Bengal. Only those who live in these districts and who have had daily direct experience of the ravages of water hyacinth can appreciate the urgent need of strenuous efforts to find some means of stopping the spread of the pest to prevent Eastern Bengal from falling into the grip of its tentacles. I have had the opportunity of seeing the pest during my river tour these last few days.

I can appreciate the damage done. It appears that little effort has been made to deal with it.

I have at the suggestion of the Hon'ble Minister called this Conference, in order to obtain the views and the advice of gentlemen who are acquainted with the subject of water hyacinth and how the pest should be attacked and what machinery it is necessary to set up for the campaign.

The position appears to be this. It is agreed on all sides that water hyacinth is a serious menace to the well-being of the Province in that it interrupts communications, damages crops, kills off fish, contaminates drinking water and affords a breeding-ground for mosquitoes.

Much time and labour have been spent by Government on investigating the question of obtaining that information without which no useful action

is possible. The conclusions to which the information in the hands of Government points, are these:—

(i) No action unless it is concerted and co-ordinated can lead to any result worth having. This has been proved to their cost by local bodies notably in Faridpur. They have found that the money spent by them in the clearance of areas under their control has been thrown away, simply because the cleared area at once becomes reinfected from uncleared areas in the neighbourhood.

(ii) To obtain co-ordinated action you must have a single authority. You can, by legislation, impose any amount of obligations on bodies or individuals, but if you are to have those obligations carried out, and carried out at the right time and in the right way, you must have a supervising authority and invest it with adequate powers.

(iii) An organization such as this will require funds. Even if the obligation to clear certain areas is laid upon local bodies or individuals, there will always be numerous cases where clearance will have to be done at the public expense. There are the great beels, which the owners will probably not be in a position to clear at their own expense. There will be cases of recalcitrance, where the State will have to step in and do the work. The cost might be recovered afterwards, but the State will have to pay for the labour in the first instance, and there will be the cost of the supervising staff.

(iv) To set up the organization, which I have thus outlined, would require special legislation. It is encouraging to observe that a large number of District and Local Boards in the affected districts have passed resolutions in favour of special legislation and special taxation.

We have had some experience of an attempt made in Burma to deal with this difficulty. They first organized a campaign in the Irrawaddy Delta, but in spite of the fact that the Burma Village Act, 1907, imposes an obligation on the residents of every village-tract to keep open communications with adjoining villages, this was a failure, for the results were only temporary and complete eradication was not effected. They then passed the Burma Water Hyacinth Act, 1917, which declared water hyacinth to be a public nuisance. The intention was that this Act, used in conjunction with the Village Act to which I have referred and the Burma Town Act, 1907, should impose on headmen in villages and towns an obligation to take such measures as might be prescribed for the prevention of the pest. The difficulties of enforcement were, however, on examination found to be so great that the Act has never been operative, and Burma has contented herself merely with keeping the main waterways open, and acquiesces in the presence of water hyacinth as a permanent pest. I mention this by way of illustration of the difficulties we have to face, but there seems no reason why Bengal should not succeed where Burma has failed. Not that, I think, any one believes that total eradication is possible. The best we can hope to do is to reduce the thing to manageable proportions and keep it there.

I must thank you all for giving the time to attend this Conference.

I look forward with some hope that as a result of your deliberations you may be able to frame some practical proposal for dealing with the difficulty, that will receive the support of all parties and all people.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Pabna on 4th August 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have to thank the Municipality, the District Board and the Anjuman for their addresses, and for the cordial welcome extended to us on the occasion of our first visit to Pabna. I also gratefully acknowledge your expression of loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor.

I have been looking forward to my visit to this district, and to the opportunity of coming into personal touch with the people and some of the leaders of civic life and religious thought.

Before I arrived in India to take up my duties as Governor of this Presidency, this district suffered from serious communal disturbances, from the results of which you have not yet, I regret, fully recovered. I am glad, however, to hear that feelings of bitterness and recrimination are gradually subsiding and that there are hopeful signs that tolerance and good-will are reasserting themselves. My Government have been giving special attention to the matter, with an earnest desire to do what they can to restore good feeling and to help the two communities to forget their differences and to live in friendship and mutual good-will. I have spoken on communal difficulties at other places during my tour, but, perhaps, I may be allowed to repeat here in Pabna that my Government sympathise with the claims of both communities to enjoy the due observance of their religious rites and ceremonies according to age-long custom, but they expect this

observance to be carried out with mutual regard for the feelings of others.

The Commissioners of the Municipality in their address ask—

- (1) that they shall have power to co-opt non-official members, in place of Government nominations;
- (2) that they shall be allowed financial independence and given a free hand in framing their budget.

As regards the former, Government have decided after careful consideration that it is not advisable to extend the system of co-opting, on the ground that it places undue power in the hands of a few individuals.

As regards the latter, I am informed that this privilege was originally withheld from your Municipality owing to administrative inefficiency.

I hope this has changed and I have asked the Hon'ble Minister to review the position in the light of present conditions and to give a decision as to whether your administration now warrants a change in the present arrangement.

You refer to your water-supply, for which you request Government assistance. I understand that Government have promised a contribution of Rs. 80,000 under certain conditions. They have already spent Rs. 10,000 in sinking a tube well. It appears, however, that the conditions attached to the Government offer have not been carried out and you now say in your address that the conditions, which you originally accepted, are beyond the scope of fulfilment. I am afraid in the light of this

information, Government cannot relax the conditions of their contribution but it may be necessary for them to reconsider the position. Government are prepared to carry out their undertaking in connection with the scheme, but you will realize that it must be conditional on your making the necessary offer to qualify for the grant in the ordinary way, Government finding one-third of the cost, provided the Municipality can give satisfactory assurance that their share of two-thirds will be forthcoming.

I have carefully noted your representation as regards education, both of girls and boys, and I am pleased to hear of its satisfactory progress. Government will watch sympathetically the progress of your institutions and increased public support will meet with increased liberality on the part of Government.

You express a desire to keep alive the old oriental culture which is now showing signs of failing and I personally have every sympathy with your desire. Genuine local enthusiasm for its revival will receive the sympathy of Government.

In one of the addresses it is stated that 90 per cent. of the population of this district depend upon agriculture for a livelihood, and you complain of the assistance accorded by Government in this direction. Government fully appreciate the importance of agricultural prosperity in Bengal and are giving urgent attention to the many problems in connection with it.

As you know, there is at Dacca the Government Agricultural Farm, which is one of the most efficient and progressive institutions in Bengal. I urge

upon all zamindars and cultivators to take advantage of the information, which can be obtained from this institution, for the improvement of the cultivation of the soil. The information is also passed on to your Government Farm at Pabna. As a result of research it is proved beyond question that the careful adoption of their recommendations and the utilization of their seed will increase the yield of the land in many instances between 25 and 30 per cent.

I believe the advantage of this district will be greatly served by the formation of Union Boards. I believe that these Boards are the best means of securing satisfactory rural administration and the results of the work of Union Boards, which have been set up throughout the Presidency, prove beyond question the real benefit the districts receive in which they are operating. The District Board should give every encouragement to the formation of Union Boards.

You refer to the condition of the road between Pabna and Ishurdi and also the possibility of the construction of a railway line. The construction of this railway is now under the consideration of the Railway Board. As regards the road, it is not possible for Government to agree to take over responsibility for the upkeep of this kind of road. If one road was taken over, the demand throughout the Presidency would be so great that it would be impossible for Government to meet it. I realize, however, the great importance of this road as being the main outlet between Pabna and the west, and as soon as legislation for registration and taxing of motor cars is passed, and a road fund is instituted,

substantial assistance towards the upkeep of such a road as this mentioned should be forthcoming. Legislation for this purpose will be introduced at an early date, but its introduction is conditional upon the Government of India's decision in the matter of a tax on petrol.

I much appreciate your reference to my personal association with and interest in sports and pastimes. You suggest that my enthusiasm for sports and games will help towards the provision of sports and amusements. I firmly believe that the proper development and encouragement of such games as cricket, football and hockey lead to good fellowship and mutual good-will and the development of those characteristics of discipline and self-control which should help towards understanding and mutual respect. If it rested with me, every town would have a recreation ground, but the calls upon Government for land and money for other purposes, considered more urgent, cannot now be fully met. You will, I know, realize that I personally have every sympathy with your desire for the provision of suitable opportunities of recreation and shall be pleased to do anything I can to help you to attain it.

I must thank you again for your addresses and welcome. I shall look forward to coming to Pabna again, when I hope I may be able to give, a more pleasing message than I can to-day and to congratulate you upon the attainment of some of the demands and needs you mention in your addresses.

***Presentation of Sanad to Rai Sahib
Upendra Lal Pakrasi at Pabna on 4th
August 1927.***

RAI SAHIB UPENDRA LAL PAKRASI,

You have done excellent work as an Inspector of Co-operative Societies. Your services in inaugurating and developing co-operative institutions, in helping to start new schools and dispensaries and in promoting generally public institutions, have been invaluable. You also exhibited great energy and devotion during the floods in Rajshahi in 1922, and have been of great help to the Subdivisional Officer, Sirajganj, in all public work. You have deservedly earned the title which has been conferred upon you.

***His Excellency's Address to Rai Sahib
Kamakshya Kumar Mukharji while
handing to him the Sanad of his title at
Sardah, on 5th August 1927.***

RAI SAHIB KAMAKSHYA KUMAR MUKHARJI,

You entered the Police Department as a Sub-Inspector in 1896, and owe your present position as Chief Law Instructor in the Police Training College, to your consistently good work. You were very successful as a Court Prosecuting Officer, and as Law Instructor you have been of the greatest assistance not only in the supervising and training of young officers and cadets, but also in maintaining the efficiency and discipline of the college. I congratulate you.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Rajshahi on 6th August
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the cordial welcome you have so kindly extended to Lady Jackson and myself on the occasion of our first visit to Rajshahi, and for the addresses which the Municipality, the District Board and the Muhammadan Association have presented to me. I am very pleased to have this opportunity of visiting, what in your address you refer to as "an out-of-the-way place," but one which I regard as of considerable importance. Personal touch and acquaintance with the people of such a district is a very valuable experience for me.

I acknowledge your expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor.

In their address the Municipality refer to their waterworks project and the supply of pure drinking water. An efficient and good supply of water is a vital necessity to any locality. The Government are prepared to do all they can to assist you in this matter. I regret that the sinking of a tube well, on which Government expended Rs. 10,000, has not proved satisfactory. You now desire to resort to a larger scheme whereby the water from the river can be utilized. The Government will carefully consider this proposal, which includes a free grant of land, upon which to erect the waterworks. It must be understood that, before they can come to a definite decision, it will be necessary for the Municipality to

assure a suitable contribution towards the scheme. It is, I think, also necessary that you should be prepared, with the provision of the waterworks, to deal with the drainage of the town. This I realize will entail considerable expenditure, but as one scheme is complementary to the other, it must be faced.

You appeal for assistance towards the improvement of your charitable dispensary. It is unsatisfactory to hear that you are obliged to leave vacant half the beds for want of funds, and this shows an unfortunate lack of local recognition of responsibility. You ask that the Government should pay the salary of the Assistant Surgeon. Government cannot undertake this responsibility. They are prepared to assist towards the reasonable equipment of the hospital, but they expect that the recurring expenditure necessary for the upkeep of the hospital will be found locally. It is very unfortunate that there is such a poor local response, as an efficient hospital in this district is of such great importance. The Government, however, can only help you to the extent that you prove willing and capable of helping yourselves.

Under the Rural Health Organization Scheme a sum of rupees three lakhs is this year granted for the establishment of rural health circles. This amount will be increased eventually up to rupees twelve lakhs and you should benefit under this decision by having ultimately, it is hoped, a Health Officer in every thana.

I have carefully noted your concern as regards the upkeep of your main roads owing to the increase of motor traffic. The introduction of legislation for the taxation and registration of motor cars is

contemplated. .Under the scheme a Provincial Road Fund will be established, from which it is hoped to be able to distribute substantial assistance to various localities for the purpose of the upkeep of the roads.

The Muhammadan Association in their address very rightly refer to the question of education and they start by stating that at present only 6 per cent. of the population are literate. This is an appalling condition of affairs. It is the intention of Government to endeavour to bring educational facilities within the reach of all, and for this purpose a Bill will be introduced at an early date for the purpose of establishing primary education in rural areas throughout the Presidency. Such a measure will necessarily involve some sacrifice on the part of the people in order to procure the necessary finance, but I am encouraged to believe that they will be prepared to do this.

I note that you refer to the growing importance of Rajshahi as an educational centre. You have undoubtedly made considerable progress in this district and the Government desire to give you every encouragement. I understand that plans and estimates for the construction of a new hostel for Muhammadan school boys and the transfer of the present Fuller Boarding House to the college are now before Government, and I hope that the proposals will shortly receive Government approval.

As regards the Teachers' Training College at Rajshahi, I have every sympathy with your desire that such a college should be located in this district. I understand the choice of the site lay between Chittagong and Rajshahi, but the verdict

after careful consideration is, that in the best interest of the Province the college should go to Chittagong. You must not be discouraged, as I feel sure in view of your educational progress and your claims for a college at Rajshahi, it must eventually receive favourable consideration.

I have carefully noted your objection to the proposed scheme for the sanitation of the college. It is obvious that something as regards its drainage must be done at once, and as at present there is no chance of the Rajshahi Drainage Scheme materialising, the scheme objected to, namely, the provision of a septic tank, must be proceeded with. I am having enquiries made into your objection and though as at present advised, it would appear that the objections to this scheme are not as serious as you state, I will see that alternative schemes are considered.

I am glad to note that the acquisition of land for the construction of a railway line between Amnura *via* Rajshahi to Abdulpur has been commenced. I hope that this scheme for railway communication in this district will soon be in operation.

I hope to come to Rajshahi again when I trust I shall be able to congratulate you upon the realization of some of your needs and desires as expressed in your addresses.

***His Excellency's Address to Khan Sahib
Maulvi Tarip Muhammad while handing
to him the Sanad of his title at Rajshahi,
on 6th August 1927.***

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI TARIP MUHAMMAD,

You have rendered valuable services in various honorary capacities. You have been connected for many years with the District Board and a very successful Chairman of the Local Board, Naogaon. Your loyalty and the influence you exercise with the Muhammadan public of the subdivision are well known and the prominent part you took in the founding of the Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society was commendable. I offer you my congratulations on a well deserved honour.

His Excellency's Speech at the Convocation of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj on 10th August 1927.

LEARNED PANDITS OF THE SARASWAT SAMAJ,

I am very grateful for your address and for the generous and cordial welcome you have extended to me.

It has been the custom for some years past for the Governor of Bengal to attend your Convocation at Dacca, and I am very pleased to be able to continue this custom to-day. For many years I have felt an interest in Sanskrit learning and teaching, and when I was at school in England, a special prize was given for efficiency in this subject. I regret that personally I did not enter for the prize, but I believe my friend and school-fellow, Sir Harcourt Butler, won it. For years I wondered what Sanskrit was ! Now after many years I find myself in the presence of some of the most learned exponents of Sanskritic lore in the world and I much appreciate this very interesting experience.

The value of your successful efforts to keep the ancient culture alive in India by systematic teaching in *tols*, and then by examinations to confer diplomas, is unquestioned. Students of Sanskrit, who have eventually become great and learned Pandits, are everywhere held in high esteem. Your method of teacher and student living together, both intent on the pursuit of learning, appeals to those who wish to aspire to an exceptional knowledge of your Hindu religion and philosophy. By your

system of living and your learning you have acquired the confidence of the public, which gives authority, and this you can be depended upon to use wisely, by guiding the people along the paths of simplicity, truth and loyalty. Your creed as enjoined by the holy Shastras, which lays down loyalty to the Throne and respect for law and order, has never been forgotten, and Government feel that they can depend upon the Pandits to assist them with their influence, whenever the law of the land is broken or peace is threatened.

With unselfish devotion you spend your lives in acquiring knowledge, which you hand on to others. You meet annually at this Convocation, when you exchange views, to work out the best means for assuring the advancement of Sanskrit learning in its varied aspects. You are content to depend upon your proved usefulness to assure support. You gain this from private admirers and I am glad that Government, recognizing your influence for good throughout Hindu Society, has felt justified in giving you some assistance.

I note with pleasure the handsome gift of Rs. 40,000 which you received from the generous and philanthropic lady of Bhowal and other donations from the Tripura State, the heirs of the late Rani Dinamoni Chaudhurani of Santosh, from the Zamindars of Ambaria, Mymensingh, and from the Bhagyakul family of this district.

The standard required to pass your examinations is high and it is interesting to note that you have had a considerable increase in the number of applicants for examinations, which shows that your good work is appreciated.

You will forgive me if I venture to express regret that there is at present no common path of study for the western and eastern systems of Sanskrit learning. Just as I feel that a student of the Ayurveda would be a better Kaviraj from a study of the Western Pharmacopia, and the student of western medicine has a great deal to admire in an ancient medical system, similarly the learned Pandit should gain from the study of the great achievements of the comparative philology of the west, and the scholar of the west no less from the vast erudition of the traditional Sanskrit commentaries. Perhaps in some few minds a rapprochement may be possible, without sacrifice of the great ideals of scholarship and philosophy, to which you of the Saraswat Samaj so devotedly cling.

I have nothing but admiration for your endeavours to maintain the tradition of Sanskrit culture, which means simplicity of living and serious thinking and that essential element for successful teaching—the personal contact between pupil and *Guru*.

I much appreciate the compliment you have paid me in asking me to preside over the Convocation to-day and I wish your Samaj continued success and usefulness.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Chittagong on 13th August
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I must thank you for the exceptional compliment which you have paid me, by presenting addresses from no fewer than eight important bodies, and at the same time express my sincere appreciation of the cordial welcome you have extended to Lady Jackson and myself on this our first visit to Chittagong. It is obviously impossible for me in a combined reply to deal with all the subjects referred to in the addresses, so I have attempted to select those which appear to be of particular interest to all and on which you might desire a reply from me to-day. You will understand, however, that all the other subjects mentioned in the addresses have been referred to the departments of Government concerned for their careful attention.

I acknowledge the expression of your loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor.

You naturally refer to the status of the Port of Chittagong. There has been a very satisfactory increase in the trade of the Port for several years, the average volume for the last three years being nearly 10 million pounds sterling. I am glad to be able to announce that the Government of India have decided to declare Chittagong a major port. This will require legislation to amend the Chittagong Port Act, so as to transfer the statutory authority

from the Local Government to the Governor-General in Council. I am afraid Government cannot, at this moment, give a definite date when legislation will be introduced, but there seems no reason why it should be long delayed. When the Port becomes by statutory enactment a major port, it will presumably be administered by a Port Trust with a full time Chairman and the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Merchants' Association should receive their due share of representation.

The development of the Port is of extreme importance. The chief outlet of the Assam-Bengal Railway is through the Port and the development of the railway and that of the Port should be carefully considered together, as the prosperity of both are so closely intertwined. The railway is extending as rapidly as funds permit. Detailed survey for a metre gauge railway from Chittagong to Nazirhat has been sanctioned by the Railway Board. The Chittagong-Akyab Railway project does not, I fear, appear to be likely to materialize in the near future. The delay in taking up this project is due to the necessity of the construction of a very expensive bridge over the Karnafuli river.

The revisional settlement, which is now taking place, is, I know, a matter of exceptional local interest. The points raised by the Chittagong Association in respect to the settlement operations were all of them brought to the notice of Government in memorials as far back as the settlement of the nineties. They have been carefully considered and decided by Government before this survey began, and again before the revisional settlement

operations now, in progress. Both in Allen's settlement of 1888-98 and in the present settlement, the utmost endeavour was made to prepare an accurate record of the lands of Chittagong, both as regards possession and title. The Mughi survey of 1837, so much treasured by the people of Chittagong, differed from the later surveys, in that its findings were not recorded and made permanently identifiable by means of maps.

The nawabad taluks, as decided in 1885, are not estates but tenures, and the broad principles on which the re-assessment is to be made at the present settlement were laid down by Sir John Kerr in 1926. Government, no less than the people of Chittagong, wish to avoid, after the close of this revisional settlement, litigation of the type and volume which followed the last settlement. The Settlement Officer has, therefore, been permitted to give a generous interpretation to the meaning of possession. All Government are asking is that claimants should identify the lands claimed. Useless and expensive litigation will be caused if people persist in the short-sighted policy of fighting suits regarding lands wrongly identified or unidentifiable, basing their claims on a *Chita* incapable of accurate relay. Used so, the Mughi *Chita*, instead of being a charter of rights, will continue to cause all the evil that an inaccurate and obsolete record can cause through infructuous litigation. As to profits, the nawabad talukdars can rest assured that the Settlement Officer has been given discretion to increase the ordinary percentage of profits in all cases, where there are special reasons for doing so, and proper consideration will be given to the claims

of those tenure-holders who have spent capital on embanking and settling lands.

In most of the addresses a considerable number of requests for assistance from Government have been preferred. There appears to be some misunderstanding as to the objects for which Government are justified in granting assistance out of the general tax-payer's money. The general policy of Government, in respect to grants-in-aid to local authorities, is that they are prepared to contribute a fair share, usually one-third, to the cost of such public health projects as water-supply or sewerage schemes. A fire engine or town lighting, however, cannot, I think, be considered matters for Government responsibility, though I do consider they are a primary responsibility of the locality.

When Government grant a loan to a local body for some public utility work, they naturally expect that every effort will be made to repay it in due course. A loan of 1½ lakhs was given to finance the water-supply scheme of the Municipality in 1914-15. Of this Rs. 68,000 has been repaid and Rs. 82,000 still remains outstanding. I am informed that the waterworks have been earning profits which have been transferred for utilization for the general purposes of the Municipality. This is contrary to the express provisions of section 307 of the Bengal Municipal Act. You will appreciate that Government are not prepared to view with favour proposals for further loans under such conditions.

Turning to rural water-supply, I am very glad to find that the Government scheme has been appreciated in this district and that you have distributed the grant from Government, on condition that at least

one-third of the total expenditure should be provided from local sources. The District Board, have, I am informed, provided Rs. 8,000 in the current year for water-supply in rural areas. In 1926-27 the Board were unable to spend Rs. 14,500 provided by Government for anti-malarial work through lack of a scheme, and they have not yet formulated their plan for rural health centres. I venture to suggest that you formulate your schemes so as to take full advantage of the Government subventions. The assistance of Government has been requested by your Board towards the repair of the primary schools damaged by the cyclone. I am pleased to state that the Government have decided to contribute Rs. 3,400 towards the repairs of these primary schools, as they realize this expenditure would make a serious drain upon the Board's funds.

There is one subject upon which I congratulate the Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality, namely, their enthusiasm for the extension of primary education. There are already 23 primary schools, for which Government and the Commissioners each supply half of the capital and recurring costs. You propose to start nine more schools which will be sufficient, you hope, to provide accommodation for the rest of the boys between six and ten years old. This proposal amounts to providing free primary education throughout the Municipality and making it compulsory. When Government is satisfied that the accommodation proposed will really be sufficient for the number of boys concerned, the necessary notification will be issued:

The Municipality have also suggested the extension of the scheme to girls schools. This is a more

difficult problem and the Municipality has been for the present advised to submit a scheme for the consideration of the Inspectress of Schools on a grant-in-aid basis. If Chittagong has free compulsory primary education for boys and inaugurates a large scheme of free primary education for girls, it will, from an educational point of view, be the most advanced Municipality in Bengal. Primary education in rural areas depends upon the support accorded to the Primary Education Bill shortly to be introduced in Council. I trust that all the Associations here will give the Bill resolute support.

I am a strong believer in technical education. Although Chittagong is more a trading rather than an industrial centre, I think advantage can be gained and nothing is ever lost by technical education. At present correspondence is going on between the Municipality, the District Board and the Department of Industries with a view to starting a junior technical school at Chittagong, and the Department has offered to pay a capital grant of Rs. 10,000 and an annual recurring grant of Rs. 4,500. The estimated total capital expenditure on the school is Rs. 27,000 and the recurring expenditure Rs. 9,000. ,

It is a pleasure to me to know that I am to lay the foundation-stone of a new Medical School which you so earnestly desire. There are certain conditions which have not yet been quite fulfilled, but Government have decided that the question of the repairs to the hospital, which appears to be a local charge, and which is not as yet settled, should not stand in the way of the inauguration of the scheme during my visit. I feel sure that the general public

of Chittagong and all the Associations and local bodies will give every support to the scheme which should prove of permanent benefit to the people of this district.

All communities in this town and district are of course interested in the development of the Chittagong College, and I note your requests for the constitution of certain additional faculties and also for the extension of accommodation for Hindu students. I realize the future possibilities of the college and assure you that Government will consider sympathetically your aspirations for its development.

The Buddhist community of the district naturally wish that their interests should not be overlooked in educational advancement. I understand that there is a scheme for hostel accommodation for Buddhist students in connection with the Monastery. The Buddhist community may rest assured that Government is always solicitous for the interest of minorities.

If I have not been able to do justice to all the matters brought to my notice in so many addresses, I know you will put it down to lack of time and not to lack of will. I am very grateful to you for your cordial welcome, and the thorough way in which your public bodies have presented to me the needs of the district and their ideas as to progress.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying
of the Foundation-stone of the Medical
School, Chittagong, on 15th August
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I much appreciate the honour you have done me in asking me to lay the foundation-stone of your Medical School. There is no class of institution, which can render more useful and beneficial work than a Medical School well founded and efficiently conducted. This school is the first of several, the building of which Government have decided to encourage throughout the Presidency, in order to provide medical service at present so woefully insufficient.

As mentioned by Dr. Beni Mohan Das, at present in the Chittagong district, which has a population of 16 lakhs, there are only 19 qualified practitioners. The difference it must make to a district to know that it is amply served by fully qualified doctors must be enormous and at the same time it must inevitably result, if the doctors do their duty, in the general improvement of the health of the people throughout the district. A doctor in my judgment should consider it part of his duty not only to tend to the sick, but also ceaselessly to teach the value of hygiene and sanitation. Government have agreed to provide sufficient funds to secure the building of this school, calling upon you to assist to the extent of Rs. 1,03,000. Your responsibilities, however, do not end there. Government consider, and I think, rightly, that it is incumbent upon the district to

provide for the additional recurring costs of the upkeep of the hospital. This I understand will involve an annual expenditure of anything between Rs. 18,000 and Rs. 20,000.

The obvious necessity of such a school and the benefit it should assure, ought to be enough incentive to make secure the requisite money necessary to meet the recurring expenses of upkeep. You have made a genuine effort to meet the requirements of Government and I feel certain your endeavours will be crowned with success.

I congratulate the District Boards of the division and all the public institutions and private gentlemen who have contributed so generously to secure the realization of this project for the benefit of the people of this division, amongst whom I may mention Dr. Beni Mohan Das.

Under these circumstances, I am very pleased to be able to take part in this function to-day, and wishing the school every success, I have pleasure in declaring the stone well and truly laid.

His Excellency's Speech at the Union Board Conference, Chittagong, on 17th August 1927.

GENTLEMEN,

It has been a particular pleasure to me to have had the opportunity of meeting gatherings of Presidents of Union Boards in several districts. I feel that upon the establishment and efficient working of these bodies of local administration depends the sure and satisfactory improvement of the conditions of the people.

There are now 158 Union Boards actually working in Chittagong, and I am glad to see that the Boards are realizing that the betterment of their communications, sanitation, water-supply and the provisions of the amenities of organized village life rest with them. The District Board has shown its readiness to assist the Union Boards, and has given additional grants to those Boards who have shown a capacity to help themselves under the provision of clause 37(B) of the Village Self-Government Act. This is sound policy, but the District Boards and Local Boards can well go farther; they should not stand in the way of the development of the smaller bodies—the Union Boards—by withholding the transfer of their functions in connection with the management of pounds and ferries. Even more important than the giving of subventions is the transferring to the younger bodies of spheres of administration and sources of income, enabling the Union Board authorities to

gain experience and acquire a capacity for managing and spending an income of their own, instead of having to look to the parent bodies for grants-in-aid.

I am glad to see that the Union Boards were able to spend from their own income a sum equal to half the Government contribution for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas. I advise the District Board, in making grants for rural improvement, to help those Boards who show real enthusiasm for work of public utility, and to make use of the Union Boards for supervision of such work as the sinking of wells and the repair of minor roads in their areas.

I observe that your Boards have begun to exercise Bench powers and that 26 Benches have already been established. Government expect that the Benches and Courts will deal with the disputes brought before them with speed, judicial sense and impartiality. Government also hope that the Presidents will realize the importance of the prompt serving of processes through the daffadars and chaukidars. At present you are dealing with revenue processes only, but it is hoped that the Union Boards will ultimately become the medium of service of criminal processes and even, perhaps, as time goes on, of civil processes.

Government pay the chaukidars and daffadars for the service of processes. I note in your conference of last year that you passed a resolution, in common with many other Union Board conferences in the Province, that Government should contribute to the cost of daffadars and chaukidars on account of the amount of work they do in respect to watch and ward and helping the Police. It is true that the

Municipalities have an advantage, as compared with the rural areas, by being policed at the cost of provincial revenues. It cannot be said, however, that "the watch and ward" of the chaukidars in rural areas constitute work for the Government only. The protection of life and property and the investigation of crime are primary needs of the villagers. Government pay for the Thana Police who retain the functions of supervision and control of the detection and prevention of crimes against life and property, but it is quite right that the villagers should pay for the watch and ward which supplement the protection given by the Government. Daffadars and chaukidars are the servants of the Union Boards. They are placed partially under the orders of the Thana officers and under the control of the District Magistrate, merely to ensure that the village Unions get efficient service and the help of expert officers to control the watch on crime. Crime is not a localized phenomenon; criminals move from Union to Union and could not be checked without a central organization supervising prevention and detection.

There appears to be an inclination on the part of your Unions to increase the salaries of chaukidars, in most cases by reducing their numbers. I agree that we should aim at obtaining in the chaukidar, as far as possible, a whole-time servant of the public by paying him a suitable wage. The number of chaukidars, however, cannot be reduced to an extent affecting the Police control of crime, and it is desirable that their pay should be uniform throughout the district and not varying in accordance with the ideas of different Boards.

I cannot too much emphasise the importance I attach to the development of rural self-government through the Union Boards. It is on this foundation that the whole fabric of self-government in Bengal must rest, and if you, gentlemen, members of the Union Boards, provide a foundation well and truly laid, the structure built thereon will be stable and lasting. I understand from your deliberations of last year how earnest you are in your resolve to forward village self-government and to correlate your ideas as to the betterment of village life.

I congratulate you all, gentlemen, on the progress you have made in this district. Boards like the Sitakund, who have established a lighting and conservancy system, Dantmara, who have founded a charitable dispensary and the Boards of Thana Satkania, who have contributed to quarters for a Veterinary Assistant, have shown the way in work of public utility. I wish you one and all success in your labours and trust that your deliberations to-day will result in a real contribution to the betterment of village life in the district. .

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion
of investing His Highness the Maharaja
of Tripura with ruling powers on 19th
August 1927.***

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am present here to-day, on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, formally to transfer to Your Highness's personal rule the State of Tripura, which during your minority has been under the control of a Council of Administration. The relations of the British Government with the State of Tripura have continued for more than a century and-a-half, and in the time of your grandfather, His Highness Raja Radha Kishore Manikya, His Excellency Lord Ampthill granted the Sanad which continues to Your Highness and Your Highness's male heir the succession of the Ruling House of Tripura, subject to the recognition of the Government of India.

Your Highness has now reached the age of 19 years and you have completed your studies and training in administration. The Government of India now consider that you should take up the responsibilities of your position as Ruler of the State. The Council of Administration will to-day hand over their trust which they received after the death of your late lamented father, His Highness Maharaja Manikya Birendro Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur, in 1923 and which they have faithfully discharged.

A young Ruler in your position has great opportunities and also equally great responsibilities. You have had the advantage of an exceptionally

good education.* You have also had the opportunity of studying the forms and ideals of modern progressive administration. From experience, during my present tours in Eastern Bengal, I have found that the greatest needs of the people are education, good communications and a pure water-supply and these are all continuously asked for. I mention these requirements as being the first an enlightened Ruler would wish to assure.

I am personally happy to know that Your Highness has acquired an affection for manly sports, in which you take much interest. I hope Your Highness will encourage your people to develop a liking for athletics and games. I am satisfied that much benefit can be derived physically and morally from sober indulgence in sports and pastimes in India.

As indicated in the Kharita, His Excellency the Viceroy is much interested in your welfare. I wish to associate myself with his congratulations and good wishes and at the same time to assure you of my friendship and that my Government will always be pleased to assist you with any problems with which you may be confronted and upon which you may desire their advice.

*I commend to your hands this State and I confidently look to Your Highness, in accordance with the traditions of your ancient family, to strive to promote the prosperity and contentment of its people who to-day are placed under your direct care.

I earnestly hope that Your Highness may enjoy good health and happiness and that you may have a long and successful rule in Tripura.

His Excellency's Speech at the State Banquet at Tripura on 19th August 1927.

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am most grateful to Your Highness for the very generous terms in which you have proposed the health of my wife and myself. I am particularly grateful for your kind references to my wife's birthday. She is greatly pleased that her birthday coincides with this auspicious day in your life. I can assure Your Highness that thanks to your most generous attention and hospitality, the fatigue of the journey was soon entirely forgotten.

The hospitality of the Princes of your race is proverbial. I have experienced it many times, though in different surroundings, but one always feels that, however lavish and generous the hospitality is, it is always proffered with genuine pleasure and sincerity.

Your Highness has been good enough to pay me the compliment of referring to me as a sportsman. I appreciate the compliment, coming as it does from one who equally deserves the name. When I was appointed to my present position, a certain newspaper in England in criticising the appointment remarked "you may be a great sportsman, but that will not help you to govern Bengal"—or words to this effect. I cannot imagine a more fallacious statement. On the contrary I have already seen here in India on many occasions evidence of the feeling of comradeship and fellowship which one finds amongst sportsmen at home and which creates

confidence. The Indian has a natural love of sports and in that respect I feel there is sure to be a mutual bond between us.

I meet Your Highness for the first time under exceptional circumstances. This day must be a great and memorable one in your life, as to me it will be unforgettable. I trust that an acquaintance begun under such conditions may grow and ripen into mutual friendship. Anyhow I hope that you will look upon the Governor of Bengal as your friend and will not hesitate to come to me, if you think I personally or my Government can render you advice or assistance.

As to your future as a Ruler of this State, you possess all those qualities which, duly exercised, should assure not only your own personal success and happiness, but also the prosperity and contentment of your people. You will be called upon to take your place amongst your brother Rulers of States in the Councils of India. I hope you will take up this duty with a due sense of the responsibility attaching to it. You will be taking up your duties at a time which may well prove momentous in the political history of India.

The loyalty of your State to the British Throne has ever been unquestioned and this tradition, I feel confident, you will always jealously maintain.

Once more allow me to offer Your Highness our sincere thanks for the kind way in which you have proposed our health and for your most generous hospitality. I now offer to Your Highness our sincere wishes for your health, long life, happiness and prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Motor Vehicles Department, on
22nd August 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to come here to open these offices and quarters this morning, which have been erected to meet the growing requirements in connection with the control of vehicles in Calcutta and the registration of motor vehicles throughout the Presidency. It appears to be a very fine building and a credit to the designers and builders, and I have no doubt on inspection will prove constructed in every way to meet requirements. The work in connection with the Department, for which these buildings are erected, is increasing very rapidly in volume and importance. I note that the receipts from the registration of motor vehicles and the licensing of drivers in 1904 were Rs. 3,000 and the staff consisted of an Assistant Commissioner of Police and three part-time clerks. To-day it needs a Deputy Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, five Inspectors, 54 other ranks and 27 clerks to deal with the work, which in 1926 produced a revenue of Rs. 2,64,706, and there is every reason to expect that the revenue from this source will greatly increase.

I think Government have been wise to erect such offices and thereby be prepared to meet the growing needs of the Department.

I have great pleasure in declaring the building open.

***His Excellency's speech at the opening of
the Bengal Legislative Council on 23rd
August 1927.***

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I welcome this opportunity of meeting the Council in session for the first time since I took up my office in Bengal. You meet somewhat later than usual, but I was advised that, in view of the small amount of business the Government had to put before you, a slight postponement would not be likely to prove seriously inconvenient.

I am personally grateful for the delay, as it has enabled me to complete my tour in Eastern Bengal and thereby gain an experience, which I feel is of great value to me; and the possession of some first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing in that portion of the Presidency makes it easier for me to address you with confidence.

I have had the opportunity of visiting some important districts where I have had the good fortune to meet personally a considerable number of prominent people of all classes and communities in various localities, who readily and generously discussed with me many questions of local and general interest. It was a particular pleasure to meet several members of this Council in their individual constituencies. Everywhere I met with a welcome which I always believed I might expect from a naturally kind-hearted people, but which actually far exceeded my expectations. I feel that knowledge gained by seeing with my own eyes and

hearing with my own ears is of greater value than any I could have acquired from other sources at my disposal.

Gentlemen, you will be asked to deal with a number of important Bills in the near future, some of which I may now outline. The Bengal Borstal Schools Bill deals with what appears to be an urgent requirement in this Presidency. It provides for youthful offenders against the law being placed in special institutions, where freed from contact with habitual criminals they may be given a chance, from example and training in useful occupations, to fit themselves to lead the lives of respectable citizens. Three other Bills will be presented, namely—

- (1) The Calcutta Vehicles Bill ;
- (2) The Bengal Land Development Bill ; and
- (3) The Bengal Mining Settlements Bill.

A Bill of exceptional importance which the Government hoped to introduce this session, but which unfortunately has not yet been returned by the Government of India, is the Rural Primary Education Bill. The urgent and crying need for a Bill dealing with popular education in rural areas is too obvious to require much comment from me to-day.

During the five months I have been in India, I have endeavoured to make myself acquainted with the educational systems and requirements in this Presidency. What has impressed me most forcibly is the great difference in the annual expenditure upon University education and that upon primary education. Between 1920-21 and 1925-26, the

Government contribution for University expenditure has increased by over 13 lakhs to a total of 37 lakhs, whilst contributions towards primary education have remained stationary at 25 lakhs. I am not suggesting that too much has been spent on University education, but I think it is a matter for serious consideration whether enough is spent on primary education.

I have also been struck during my tour by the number of Municipalities, District Boards and individuals who have earnestly advocated the need for immediate action in connection with the introduction of free primary education in rural areas. The opinion was generally expressed that the people would be prepared to make the necessary sacrifice to attain it. Free primary education for this Presidency is a large and serious proposition, but it is one which I believe must be boldly faced in the near future.

The next subject upon which I should like to say a few words is one which I have reason to know is the cause of much anxiety and concern to all. In March last year, speaking in the Legislative Assembly, with reference to persons detained under Regulation III, and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, Sir Alexander Muddiman made a statement which represented the views of this Government and which were approved by the Government of India. He said :—

“The policy of Government regarding those who have been detained under Regulation III and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, in connection with the Bengal revolutionary conspiracy, has been and still is, that the detention of

no man should last longer than is essential in the interests of public safety, and we are anxious to pursue, as quickly as possible, the gradual release of individuals, whose conduct gives reason for hoping that they will not abuse their liberty."

That was a definite statement of policy pronounced upon this vexed question just before I took up my office in Bengal. There has been no change in this policy upon which I have considered it my duty to proceed. Since that statement was made and after most careful consideration of the whole situation in all its aspects, and after consultation with my Government, I considered that the conditions prevailing in Bengal justified an acceleration of the rate of release and action was taken accordingly.

I find that at the end of March this year, there were :—

In Jail	... 54 under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, and 16 under Regulation III.
To-day there are—	32 under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, and 8 under Regulation III.

At the end of March this year 26 had been released from restraint. To-day the number stands at 60.

Provided no untoward event occurs, and the conditions at present prevailing in Bengal continue and the conduct of those released justifies the action taken in their cases, I hope that a large number of those now detained will have been transferred or released before the end of the year.

I shall continue to give my personal attention to each individual case.

I feel that I have arrived in India at a moment of exceptional interest. In the ordinary course of events the Statutory Commission, as laid down under the Act of 1919, will start its investigations within the next two years. Their primary duty will appear to be, after investigation, to report upon the results of the working of the Act of 1919 throughout India and upon this report will hang decisions of momentous importance to the future Government of India. I am hopeful that during the period left before the Commission starts its work, we, in Bengal, may be able to produce wise and statesman-like legislation to prove ourselves worthy of the confidence of the British Parliament in our ability to manage our own affairs. There is unquestionable opportunity for the provision of legislation, urgently needed and equally urgently demanded, the obvious benefits of which should not be withheld from the people.

I note on the paper a motion expressing "no confidence" in the Ministers. This is a serious resolution and one which, I am sure, has not been put down without due consideration of the possible consequences. All Hon'ble Members will appreciate their personal responsibility on a vote of this kind. My duty is quite clear. In case of an adverse vote I shall accept the decision of the Council and it will not be possible for the Ministers to retain their offices. It might be necessary to prorogue the House in order to enable me to fill their places.

My first meeting with this Council, with which in the ordinary course of events I must be brought

into close contact during the next few years, is for me an occurrence of exceptional interest. When I see these crowded benches, it gives me cause for hopefulness. My sole aim is to do my duty fairly and justly towards Bengal and its people, and with such a desire I know all of you are equally animated, though our endeavours to attain our aim may be by varying methods. If this aim be our guiding principle, I shall not be without hope of fruitful results.

I pray that your deliberations may receive the blessings and the guidance of Providence.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of Lord Lytton's Portrait in Council
Chamber on 23rd August 1927.***

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the opportunity of participating in this function to-day. Though my acquaintance with the subject of the picture is not of long standing, I know Lord Lytton well enough to make it a particular pleasure to assist on any occasion which aims at perpetuating his memory in India.

Lord Lytton undoubtedly came out to Bengal in 1922 with high hopes. He had every reason for doing so. He bore an illustrious name closely identified with India. He was born in India in the shadow of Government and he married a lady who also had close ties with India. As Under Secretary of State for India in the Coalition Government, he played an active and important part in framing the Act, which he most sincerely believed would prove of inestimable value to India and which he thought would be welcomed by India as such. If he was disappointed and his high hopes somewhat shaken during his tenure of office in Bengal, it was I think because he was a victim of political circumstances which often suddenly arise and cannot be foreseen.

I doubt if any Governor ever took office at a more difficult moment. The experiment of the reforms had just begun. It was during the earliest stages of the probationary period, from which we are now emerging. In any country where far-reaching proposals transforming the system of

Government are introduced, a storm of criticism is bound to be let loose, which must naturally circle round the Government, of which the head is sure to prove the greatest attraction.

But I will not dwell longer on the political side of Lord Lytton's life in Bengal. You will all without exception remember him as a high principled, sympathetic, kindly and extremely earnest man, who thought ill of no man, whose ideals were built upon a desire to give his best in the interests of his fellow creatures. I can well believe that there were times, when he was forced through political emergency to approve of action which caused one of his generous and sensitive disposition to flinch, but which his natural courage never for one moment allowed him to avoid, when satisfied that the interests of the State demanded it. His interest in all philanthropic and social work shows a record of which he may justly be proud and the benefits of which will always be remembered with gratitude in Bengal.

I trust that this picture will always find a prominent place upon the walls of Bengal's Council Chamber, portraying, as it does, one whose noble character and honourable endeavours in the interest of this Presidency are worthy of this honour.

His Excellency's Speech at the Inauguration of the Calcutta Station of the Indian Broadcasting Company on 26th August 1927.

MR. SULTAN CHINYOY,

Before I left England, I heard of the probable construction of this station in Calcutta. I am very glad the project has developed so soon.

It is only natural that the development of wireless broadcasting, which many look upon as the greatest scientific discovery of the age, should find its way to India and demand admittance. It is somewhat surprising to me that it has not been installed before now, but perhaps India may benefit by the delay as, during the last few years, the strides broadcasting has made in efficiency and reliability have been most remarkable.

As you said, Sir, I have had opportunity of experiencing the position and the power broadcasting holds in England.

There it has become such a common adjunct to every establishment that it scarcely strikes one as anything out of the ordinary. Its power has been demonstrated in England on more than one occasion in a striking degree during national emergency.

I am proud to have the opportunity of taking part in the inauguration of this station in Calcutta, which following Bombay, is the second in the chain of stations with which it is intended eventually to cover India. I admire your enterprise. There are

great difficulties to be faced, some of which you are already aware of, and prepared for, but Indian conditions and atmospherics are, I believe, still unfathomed and you are sure to find some new ones to overcome.

Though a private commercial concern, your work will be conducted in the closest co-operation with Government. As the Viceroy said in Bombay, there is nothing incompatible in making a profit, whilst rendering public service. It appears to me that your success will depend to a large degree upon the public service you are able to render.

I have no doubt of the benefits to be derived in India from a good broadcasting service based upon material of a suitable character for Indians.

A broadcasting programme at its best is not only entertaining, but at the same time educational. There are so many people in Bengal who have little chance of ever leaving the immediate surroundings of their own villages. It is almost impossible to imagine the amazement and wonder of these people if when assembled under a village tree, they could listen to music and song and lectures of which they had dreamt, but never actually heard.

I understand I am speaking to many listeners and I feel sure they will agree with me in welcoming the advent of a broadcasting system in Calcutta and in wishing the Indian Broadcasting Company every success towards which I feel sure the Government will lend their ready assistance.

I now have much pleasure in declaring the station open.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address
presented by the Kanohrapara Municipality
on 31st August 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you sincerely for your most cordial welcome. I have listened to your address with much interest and I note that since 1917 you have been a Municipality managing your own affairs and I am pleased to hear of your satisfactory progress.

You are fortunate in having in your midst a large railway centre and I am glad to hear that the Municipality and the Station Committee of the Railway are working in such close co-operation of one another. I should like to see similar harmony in other directions in Bengal. The Railway Company have set a high standard of progressive administration and efficiency which you rightly desire to live up to—a worthy aspiration on which you are to be congratulated. You are, of course, responsible for the areas of your Municipality which are outside the railway property.

You refer particularly to your water-supply. I understand that a scheme was prepared by you and sent up to the Public Health Department for approval at the end of 1925. Early next year the Department after consultation with the Commissioner suggested certain modifications and the scheme was returned in April last year for recasting in accordance with the conclusions arrived at. Since then the Department has had no further communication from you. I advise you to send in your

scheme, revised in accordance with the advice of the Department, and Government will examine it and consider the question of a grant or a loan or both to help the Commissioners to carry out the project.

It is satisfactory to know that you are giving special attention to your drainage and sanitation and also that you are doing your best to encourage education.

I congratulate you upon your enthusiasm and public spirit which should assure the prosperity of your small but important community.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the new Technical School at Kanohra-
para on 31st August 1927.***

GENTLEMEN, °

I much appreciate your invitation to visit Kanchrapara and to take part in the opening of the new Technical School. I have listened with interest to your address which shows the value of the co-operation which exists between the Railway Company and the Government, so that by mutual agreement we have been enabled to provide the school and offer facilities for a first class technical education to a number of boys. I have heard from Sir R. N. Mookerjee, whom I met this morning, the struggle he had to face to put this scheme into operation.

It is a particular pleasure for me to see this school. I am greatly interested in technical education, as I believe it is in that direction that the youths of India need to be encouraged to turn their attention, with a view not only to helping themselves to a suitable career, but also to be able to render valuable public services. A good practical education and training in Engineering should prove advantageous to any boy—though no doubt some are naturally suited for the work of an Engineer, whilst others are not. Therefore, it is most necessary that careful selection should be made. Boys who come to the school should have a definite ambition to succeed in this line of business and it should be appreciated that it is no good expecting to be kept on unless proper enthusiasm and capacity are shown.

The Government have readily taken advantage of the co-operation of the railway company in creating and running these schools. The Government supply funds and buildings and the railway company supply the land and the after-school workshop training. The object is to turn out engineers who are badly needed throughout India on the railways or elsewhere. Everyone should benefit from this arrangement. The Railway Company will be provided with well trained Engineers—the student having an opportunity of gaining a satisfactory career, and the Government feel that they are assisting to produce skilled men who may prove of value to the public and in the public service.

I have always been particularly interested in railway engineering. For 12 years I was a Director of one of the largest English Railway Companies and also of the Company which manufacture the finest locomotives. You, boys, are getting an education and being paid for it, while at home boys in a similar position will have to find quite a large premium for the privilege. Therefore I wish you to make the most of this exceptional opportunity.

It is with great pleasure that I declare the building open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Armistice
Day Dinner on 11th November 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is now my privilege to propose for your acceptance the toast of His Majesty's Forces.

We, in India, in common with all other parts of the Empire, have to-day been commemorating, with due solemnity and reverence, the Armistice declared on November the 11th, 1918, which heralded the end of the greatest and most devastating war in history.

Our feelings on such an occasion must be mainly of thankfulness—not only that we emerged victorious—but also for that noble example of sacrifice which was made by so many gallant sons of the British Empire through their devotion to duty at their country's call.

That great conflict is too recent to allow its memories to be so soon forgotten, and there can be none, who went through it, who view with anything but dismay and horror a repetition of such a worldwide catastrophe.

I think there is no question that the minds of men of most nations, or at any rate those who claim to be within the pale of civilization, are in revolt against war as a consequence of their experience of what war means, and there is an honest determination amongst the great nations of the world to work for peace established on a permanent and solid foundation; but it appears that we

have still a long way to go before we could feel justified in discarding the common and prudent view that—"To be prepared for emergency is the surest security of peace."

There is no country in the world to which peace is of more vital necessity than the British Empire. The development, progress and happiness of its people depend upon the peace of the world when communications with one portion or another are open and all the seas are free to her trade.

His Majesty's Forces, the Navies, Armies and Air Forces, throughout the various parts of the Empire, exist for the legitimate protection of our interests and their main function is the maintenance of peace and respect for law and order. His Majesty's Forces are, firstly, for defence and, secondly, for offence when forced by events so to operate.

It is with complete confidence we all have in their ability equally to carry out either of these duties at any time that I propose this toast with a sincerity equal to that with which I feel sure you will accept it.

We must all have noticed that great efforts are being made by various statesmen to bring about disarmament. One eminent British Statesman has recently declared that unless arbitration disarmament is effected, war, within a short time, is inevitable. The British Empire have shown their *bona fides* in their belief in the reduction of the burden of armaments, and this has been demonstrated by action, drastic and ruthless, until it is generally felt that we have now reached the margin of

minimum security consistent with the obligations and responsibilities that we have to carry.

As one surveys the world to-day, I cannot personally see that evidence of complete international harmony and good-will, which might rule out all possible chance of disagreement or conflict in the future.

The toast which I have the honour to propose is a comprehensive one—embracing as it does all the Forces—Land, Sea or Air, Regular and Auxiliary, throughout the Empire. They must all be equally included in the toast. This impressive gathering is composed of old comrades who gave their services to the Empire and who are justly proud to have had their chance of doing so. There are here to-night representatives of every branch of the services—Sailors—including our wonderful Mercantile Marine, Soldiers and Air men. The occasion is one when rank and distinction vanish and we can all meet on that equality which true comradeship inspires and compels. Together with countless numbers from every corner of the Empire they answered the call in defence of what they believed to be justice and right, and of their Empire's honour.

The call which was made in 1914 produced a wonderful and significant example of unity and comradeship, where every portion of this vast Empire, without exception, worked together inspired by common hopes and common ideals.

This expression of strength through unity and loyalty, which I believe exists to-day, enables the British Empire to stand out prominently as the

greatest factor for the maintenance of the peace of the world. In this connection we cannot be unmindful of the part played by our comrades of this great Indian Empire. A few weeks ago a beautiful and appropriate monument was erected and unveiled at Neuve Chapelle in France which stands as a lasting and honourable memorial to those gallant men of the Indian Army who gave their lives in the service of the King-Emperor.

It is a particular pleasure to couple with this toast the name of one distinguished General Sir George Barrow. It would be difficult to find one more justly fitted to respond for such a toast as this. His record of 43 years service is one of which he can indeed be proud and for which his country has every reason to be grateful. One of the most successful Generals in the War, he combined with his skill as a Commander of Troops a sympathetic care and consideration for his men, which assured him of their confidence and affection.

He is a fine example of the men who compose His Majesty's Forces the toast of whose health and glory I now ask you to rise and honour.

His Excellency's Speech at the Scottish Churches College on 15th November 1927.

DR. WATT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My wife and I greatly appreciate this opportunity of visiting for the first time the Scottish Churches College. I have read the history of this College and made myself acquainted with its progress from its foundation nearly a century ago up to the present day.

There is no question that your progress has been remarkable, and from a very humble start you now occupy a position unsurpassed by any Missionary college in Bengal or even in India. To have been able to attain to such a position is mainly due, I think, to the great example of the founder, Dr. Duff, which inspired persistent and determined effort on the part of his supporters and successors. He and they worked for a result, which they have so far obtained, and which should be a satisfactory reward for their unselfish devotion, and an encouragement to continue their good and beneficial work.

Many of those, to whose devoted efforts this College owes its satisfactory position to-day, have passed away, but they cannot be forgotten. Their main object in life and their earnest hope was that their work should prove of such a character as to assure its being carried on by others, inspired by their good example. This is being most worthily done to-day. I am glad to know that new men keep continuously coming out from Home and you are, I believe, supported by more British assistants than any other college in Bengal.

It was not until I came to India in my present position that I had the slightest idea of the great educational work the missionaries from various parts of the world are doing out here. I have now seen enough to appreciate the value to India of their unselfish efforts, and I have no hesitation in asserting that they deserve every possible encouragement.

I have listened with great interest to the report which Dr. Watt has just read. I may refer to one or two points which particularly struck me. I note that it is your practice to advise young men as to their proceeding beyond the Intermediate course towards a University degree, and in my judgment this is very wise and practical advice. It is a very laudable ambition to attempt to take a degree at the University and great credit is due to any man who succeeds in taking one, but in Bengal there appears to be a general idea that the taking up of a University degree, or even an attempt to take one, puts one on the certain road towards a successful career. I fear it is often looked upon as an end in itself rather than as a means to an end.

As far as I can see—and this is a matter which gives me a great deal of anxious thought—the field of employment in India at present for men who have devoted much time and patience to gain ordinary success in some University examination is very limited. It appears to me that there must be many boys who would be well advised to concentrate upon a really sound Intermediate education with a view to apprenticeship rather than upon University success. To realize this would be beneficial to their prospects in life. It is only fair and right that the limitation of opportunity, which offers as a result of

University success, should be pointed out, and, if it is properly appreciated, it would save a great deal of disappointment.

Another matter I should like to refer to—Physical Culture and Playing Fields. Here I should like to express my great appreciation of the generous gift of two prizes by Mr. Mehta, connected with my visit here to-day—one to a senior student and another to a junior for scholarship and sportmanship.

I am afraid my own personal example as a student is not worth commemorating, though I am proud I took my degree. Perhaps I was more fortunate in the field of sport. If any one had wished to pay me a compliment, he could not have selected a way more sincerely appreciated by me.

I am sorry you have to report that opportunities for games and manly exercises are not more appreciated by the students. I think this is a great mistake. The advantages to be gained from games, well organized, in school and University life have proved to be equally valuable with those gained from work. Reasonable indulgence in physical recreation in youth is a natural requisite to the assurance of a healthy body and mind. Facilities for exercise and recreation have been provided as a result of special efforts on the part of the Principal and the staff, and I recommend you to back them up and to take full advantage of the opportunities offered you.

I heard with mixed feelings that you pay Government Rs. 2,000 as rent for your ground and my feelings were more mixed than ever when Dr. Watt proposed that Government should pay you Rs. 2,000

rather than you pay Government. This means a subscription by Government of Rs. 4,000. Whilst expressing no opinion upon this definite matter, I would say that you conduct here admirably and successfully an important educational establishment; you have spent a lot of money in providing a playing field which is a necessary attribute of a successful college. You deserve every encouragement in your work and I hope Government may not fail to realize this.

You say Government are smiling upon some request you have made. I hope the smile may not disappear from their face until they can transfer it to yours.

I wish your College continued success and prosperity. I cannot imagine any field for missionary work which offers greater opportunities for real service to humanity than that of education in India. The possible results obtainable from the benefits bestowed should prove a suitable reward for any sacrifice.

I fervently pray that the blessings of Almighty God may rest upon your labours.

***His Excellency's Address to Rai Jnan
Chandra Ghosh Bahadur when present-
ing him with his Sanad on 19th Novem-
ber 1927.***

RAI JNAN CHANDRA GHOSH BAHADUR,

You have a unique record of unflinching devotion to the cause of education. You were a distinguished and highly appreciated Professor of the Scottish Mission College for a long period of 25 years and for the last ten years you have been associated with the University, first as an Inspector of Colleges and then as the Registrar. In the latter capacity your services have been marked by personal integrity of the highest order and you have always given generous and loyal support to the Vice-Chancellor of the University. It gives me great pleasure to hand you the *sanad* of the title which you have so deservedly won. I congratulate you.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Midnapore on 22nd
November 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to the Commissioners of the Midnapore Municipality and to the members of the District Moslem Association for their addresses and for the extremely kind and cordial welcome, which they have extended to Lady Jackson and myself on our first visit to this ancient and historic town.

I acknowledge your sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the throne and person of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor as expressed in both the addresses.

During the rains I had the pleasure of making an extensive tour in the eastern districts of the Presidency and was then able to study at close quarters the problems with which those districts were faced. Your problems in Midnapore are of a somewhat similar character. One which at the moment appears to be causing you anxiety throughout the district is the uncertain and unstable character of the rivers. In the dry months your rivers fade away to merely small streams, whilst in the rains those which drain the de-afforested tracts of your western uplands break all bounds and flood the low-lying regions of the district. I have recently been studying the report of the efforts now being undertaken, as a result of experience of the last floods, to meet possible recurrence, and I am satisfied that every department of my Government concerned are doing their utmost to cope with this baffling problem of the control of the rivers.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY,

I note that you are making strenuous endeavours to complete your scheme of water-supply. You make a request in your address for a further grant from Government to assist you in doing this. On studying the financial position both as regards the rates and the initial and recurring costs of your water-supply scheme, you would appear to have reason for hope that you should be able to meet your financial requirements. The revision of assessment to take effect as from the 1st of April next should produce a substantial increase in the municipal income. You have an annual surplus of Rs. 6,000 from your water-supply fund, and with this you should be able, if you think it so desirable, to finance a loan of Rs. 50,000 which, I understand, you require for the completion of the pipe lines and the improvement of the wells. I trust also that the District Board will be able to meet its undertaking to provide the sum of Rs. 50,000 towards which, at the moment, they have paid Rs. 6,000.

. The Government are most anxious that your scheme should be completed as soon as possible, and, provided you do your utmost to help yourselves, I feel sure Government will be prepared to give you every assistance towards this end.

It is suggested by experts that you would do well to see that house connections are properly metred, to assure against waste of water in larger houses to the detriment of the poorer people, who depend for their water upon the street standposts. Your mains and machinery have a limited capacity of supply and cannot deliver more water than they

are designed to do. A good and adequate water-supply is of vital necessity in a town such as Midnapore.

You refer to the need of a drainage scheme to be worked in connection with the water-supply. It appears that in 1915 a scheme of surface drainage for the town was prepared, but no action seems to have been taken. The scheme and estimate, which were drawn up at that time, must obviously be out of date and must now be revised. Until this is done, the question of how to raise the necessary finance cannot well be considered. I suggest that you should ask the Public Health Department to help you with your scheme and put it up for consideration as soon as possible.

I am pleased to be able to announce that it has been decided that the net income from the Sadar Ghât Ferry will in future go to the municipality. This should add Rs. 2,400 annually to your resources. The question as to whether the ferry should be managed by the Public Works Department or by the Municipal Commissioners is now being considered.

I have listened with great care and interest to the address of the Moslem Association. I shall always regard it as my special duty to watch carefully the claims and aspirations of minorities. It is the policy of Government that these claims and aspirations shall receive justice and that a fair opportunity for education and admission into public service are provided.

I note with great pleasure that in Midnapore there has been no serious communal disturbance, and the Mussalmans have been able to live in peace

and amity with their Hindu neighbours. I trust this satisfactory state of affairs will continue.

You point out to me in your address your lack of representation upon the District Board. The choice of members of committees of the District Board is for the Board itself to determine, but it must be to the general interest that minorities should be allotted a fair representation. The Education Department of Government are fully alive to the special needs of your community as regards education, and you may rest assured that every possible assistance will be forthcoming to enable your community to make up the ground, which you appreciate you have lost in the past through failure to take advantage of opportunities afforded. The extension of the building of the Madrassa, to which you refer, and for which Government contributed Rs. 5,000 in 1923, shall be carefully and sympathetically considered.

I much appreciate your kindly reference to my personal endeavours in the interests of this Presidency since I have been in India. I can only assure you that the object which will always be in front of me is to endeavour to carry out my duties without fear or favour and to assure, as far as possible, that even-handed justice is accorded to all people.

I have been much struck during my tours by the service which is so willingly given in the interests of local affairs. You in Midnapore have shown ability to manage the affairs of your town with success. Your services are very much appreciated both by Government and by your fellow-townsmen.

His Excellency's Addresses to Title-holders when presenting them with their Sanads at Midnapore on 22nd November 1927.

RAI BHUPENDRA NATH MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib as early as 1911, in recognition of your meritorious services as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. Since then you have served in various difficult capacities in which your great experience and sound judgment have been of value. Your record is one of which you may well be proud and the assistance you gave to Government during the communal disturbances in Howrah in 1926 is not forgotten. Your promotion to the higher title is well deserved.

RAI SAHIB BEHARI LAL MUKHARJI,

You have rendered valuable public services in the capacity of an Honorary Magistrate, a member of the Contai Local Board and a Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Tamluk Municipality. Your useful services and willingness to assist the officers of Government have earned for you the well-merited title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB RAJENDRA LAL ACHARJI,

You have been in the Bengal Junior Civil Service for more than 21 years and your work in various capacities has earned the general approbation of your superior officers. Your contributions to Bengali literature are valuable and widely appreciated. I congratulate you on the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB KSHITISH CHANDRA DUTT,

Your valuable services in various honorary capacities as Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Midnapore Municipality, as Member of the Governing Body of the Midnapore College and of other local institutions have earned for you the title of Rai Sahib.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the new extension to the Midnapore
College Building on 23rd November
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the kind welcome which you have extended to my wife and myself on the occasion of my first visit to the College. I thank you for your address, which I have listened to with care and interest.

The College appears to have had a somewhat chequered career. It started as a private school and became a Government maintained school. Then it became a Government college. In 1887, it was, as we should say now, deprovincialized and transferred to the local municipality. In 1923, in view of the grant which it received from Government, the management of the College, with the consent of the municipal authorities, was placed under a governing body, with the District Magistrate as President.

During the last five years there has been gradual and satisfactory progress, and you now express a desire for further help from Government to assist in its development. Government are anxious to assist your development, but it must be realized that in order to obtain increased Government assistance, it will be necessary for you at least to maintain the number of students in the College. The financial condition and the educational needs of the College must be reviewed before the next budget, and if the grant is proved to be justified, an increase will be allotted.

The Education Department acknowledge their obligation to see that the College is carried on efficiently and that an adequate grant for its needs is made. They accept financial responsibility for the College, but they must be the final arbiter as to what the needs of the College amount to, having regard to all circumstances and the claims of similar institutions throughout Bengal.

In your address you express a desire for an additional building grant. In view of the progress made since 1923, I shall be glad to draw the Hon'ble Minister's attention to the efforts the College is making to improve its position, and I hope that after he has examined your case, he may be able to meet your request for an additional grant for building purposes.

The Government will continue to watch your efforts to conduct the College efficiently in the interests of the people of this district. At the same time I hope that the local interest and support you are receiving will be maintained and increased. If advantage is taken of the opportunities afforded by this College, then Government will have reason to feel justified in extending their sympathy and support.

Such a College as this should be of real benefit to this part of the Presidency. My hope is that it may become really efficient and worthy of the purpose for which it was designed.

It is now my privilege to open the extension of the building and to express my best wishes for your prosperity.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Burdwan on 25th November
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I must first of all thank the Commissioners of the Municipality, the Members of the District Board and the District Moslem Association for their addresses and for the cordial welcome, which they have extended to Lady Jackson and myself on our first visit to Burdwan.

You, gentlemen of the municipality, may be congratulated upon the satisfactory progress which has been made in the general improvement of your town, both as regards sanitation, water-supply, education, and in various other respects. I note that you have still some way to go before you can feel satisfied that you have a water supply adequate to the growing needs of the people. I understand that you will shortly be submitting proposals to Government in this connection, which, in view of the past administration of your local affairs, will be assured of sympathetic consideration.

I note that you desire to improve the high school and the primary schools in your town. It is of course essential that you should have school houses possessing adequate accommodation for all the classes. The Director of Public Instruction is, I know, aware of your position and is carefully considering your requirements. I understand that the Municipal School at present receives a maintenance grant from Government of Rs. 550 a month.

You will no doubt appreciate that it will be necessary for the school authorities to assure a reasonable share of the cost of any new buildings, towards the erection of which Government are asked to contribute, the ordinary contribution of Government being one-third of the cost.

As regards your primary schools, in which I note with much pleasure that poor students can obtain their education free, I suggest that your municipality should come forward with proposals for erecting the necessary buildings, and they might at the same time apply for two additional schools, which you appear to require. Government would, I think, be prepared to provide half the necessary finance. I am also pleased to note that you have a scheme in hand for the provision of a girls' school. You ask that the school should be provincialized, but I doubt if this can at present be agreed to. If the municipality are prepared to find the site, as I understand from your address that they are, and to bear their usual share of the initial and recurring costs, I feel sure, Government will be prepared to give your proposals encouragement.

GENTLEMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD,

I am pleased to note the persistent efforts you are making to cope with the unhealthy conditions, which unfortunately prevail in this district. The work in connection with rural sanitation, including the provision of a pure water-supply and the sinking of a large number of wells, must help towards remedying the evils of *Kala-azar* and Cholera and such like. I should mention that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government has

recently framed proposals to finance schemes for rural water-supply on a loan basis. I am much interested in his proposals, which appear to me to be statesmanlike and practical. Before putting his proposals before the Council, he will in the near future summon a conference of representatives of District Boards throughout the Presidency.

As regards your request that the health units in your district should be increased from 6 to 12, the difficulty is that at present the number of trained sanitary officers available is limited and they have to be allotted proportionately to each district. However, men are being trained, and when they are available, you should be able to expect additional health units in this district.

You draw my attention to the trouble you are experiencing from water-hyacinth, and you express a fear that with the extension of water courses through the construction of the Damodar Canal the infection may spread. This subject of water-hyacinth is continually engaging the anxious consideration of Government. During my tours in Eastern Bengal it appeared to me that very little effort had been or was being made by local authorities or individuals or owners in the *khals* and water-channels to endeavour to keep the pest under control. I suggest that it is up to owners and occupiers of land and local authorities to do all they can to arrest the growth of the pest. In fact it is necessary to have a combined effort of Government, local authorities and owners and occupiers of land. Government are seriously considering how best they can help towards mitigating the evil of this water-hyacinth.

I note that you have 385 miles of metalled roads in the district and I can understand your anxiety as regards their upkeep in view of the growth of motor traffic over them. The whole question of road development in India and its finance is at present being considered by an All-India Committee. As a result of their investigations it is hoped that legislation will be passed, when the provinces will have at their disposal a road fund, from which they can make grants towards the upkeep and construction of roads maintained by local authorities. I trust that the Government of India will regard this matter as of urgent and immediate public importance as all of us realize the necessity of early legislation. A cognate question is the control of motor traffic. Model bye-laws under the Local Self-Government Act have been drafted which should afford some protection to roads and bridges as regards motor traffic. These bye-laws will shortly be communicated to the District Boards, who will be advised to adopt them.

I note with great pleasure the attention the District Board is giving to the improvement of the technical school. It is a great satisfaction to me to hear of the interest which the Maharaj Kumar is taking in this matter. I fully appreciate your reference to the indebtedness of the people of this district to the House of Burdwan. The conspicuous services to Bengal and to India rendered by the Maharajadhiraja are well known to me. His influence has always been thrown upon the side of sanity, justice, and order and his wise guidance has undoubtedly helped towards the maintenance of satisfactory relations between the two communities

here. I shall personally be pleased when I see him again in Bengal, as I value his friendship and advice.

I am informed that the Director of Industries is recommending that support be given to your technical school. This the Government is now considering.

I should like to congratulate you in this district upon the policy you have followed in respect of the Union Boards, which were established in 1920. I understand that Union Boards have been satisfactorily established throughout your district and that they receive every encouragement and support from the District Board. Experience has shown that the devolution of responsibility for local affairs to the Union Boards has made for economic and efficient rural administration.

GENTLEMEN OF THE DISTRICT MOSLEM ASSOCIATION,

I was interested to hear that your Association was established 40 years ago and that its main object is the creation and education of public opinion and promotion of concord and harmony between the Mussalmans and other communities. The relative freedom from communal troubles in this district, which have unfortunately been too frequent throughout the Presidency, bears testimony to the successful influence of your Association.

You complain of your inadequate representation upon the local self-governing bodies. From the figures at my disposal, it would appear that your representation on local bodies throughout the district is not disproportionate to your numbers. I trust, however, that as a minority in this district, you will

always be assured fair and just representation on local bodies. You favour separate electorates based on communal representation. You are right in believing that there is a considerable difference of opinion on this subject, and no doubt the question of fair representation of minorities will be a matter for special attention by the Statutory Commission.

As far as nominations to local bodies are concerned, there are definite orders of Government on the subject which, I believe, are most carefully carried out by the District Magistrate.

It is the same as regards employment in the public services, and to this question of representation of minorities I give my own personal and close attention.

Gentlemen, I very much regret to hear of the distress which has been caused throughout a part of this district owing to the failure of early rains. The Government are aware of the situation and will grant relief where necessary. I trust that some of the distress may be relieved by the work on the Damodar Canal, and when that work is completed, I hope that its supply of water may prove to be some assurance against the shortage of rains, and the consequent distress from failure of crops.

'I have been deeply touched by the cordial and impressive welcome accorded us by the inhabitants of Burdwan on our arrival here this morning. The remembrance of such a generous expression of goodwill must ever be for us a source of the greatest pleasure and satisfaction. In return I wish you prosperity and contentment.

***His Excellency's Speech at the outting of
the first sod of the Damodar Canal on
25th November 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a particular pleasure to me to be here to-day and to have the privilege of partaking in this ceremony, which, I hope, will become historic, of starting the work upon the Damodar Canal.

We have just heard the interesting statement of the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur, in which he reviewed the various proposals which had been made in the past in connection with the construction of this canal, and the efforts to convince the Government that a canal from the Damodar was a practical and worthy proposition.

I believe it is just five years ago that my predecessor Lord Lytton, in reply to an address from the District Board of Burdwan, expressed his regret that he was not in a position to encourage much hope of the project,—which, as he said, had been before Government for 60 years, materialising in the immediate future. I am indeed glad that I find myself in a more fortunate position, and that I am to have the honour of actually starting the work to-day.

We have reason to hope for good results by the construction of this canal, when the water is controlled. Water has a higher value in Western Bengal than in any other portion of the Presidency, owing to the formation of the land throughout the district being on a slope, where the water uncontrolled quickly runs away to waste.

Upon the results obtainable from this project undoubtedly much depends. The whole of Western Bengal has been examined and surveyed with a view to the construction of canals from the various streams which intersect the country. Reliable data as regards the amount of water-supply have now been collected, and the experts believe that further practical irrigation schemes can be put up which, if carried out, should prove of enormous benefit to this part of Bengal.

For years past apparently the only irrigation which has been in use in Western Bengal has been from tanks. Most of these have been allowed to go into serious disrepair. Many of them have been renovated and where they have been operating the results from even such a primitive and limited supply are most apparent. This, I think, indicates the obvious desirability of pushing on with schemes of an up-to-date character, such as we are starting to-day.

We are undoubtedly behind hand with irrigation works in Bengal, and it is my earnest desire that progress should be made in this direction.

We have in Mr. Addams-Williams an officer whose knowledge of our complex river system and the possibilities of their conservation, development and use is probably unequalled. His great experience and knowledge in this respect should be invaluable in dealing with the great and important question of irrigation. I know that Mr. Addams-Williams is anxious, and has been for a long time to be able to show the value of his convictions as regards the possibility of irrigation throughout Bengal and I should like to see him given the

opportunity of doing so. His opinion is that with the opening of the Damodar Canal and by the extension of other projects, we should be able to quadruple the area irrigated by Government canals within the space of five years.

In view of the possibilities of the development of irrigation throughout the Presidency, I have thought it advisable to secure the services of an officer who has had long experience of this branch of engineering in the Punjab. Mr. Curry will take over his duties in the near future.

Over and above the material advantage to be obtained from such increase of irrigated land, we must not forget the almost certain improvement in health and sanitary conditions throughout the district, which should follow in the wake of an assured water-supply.

In starting this work on its way, I shall watch its progress with deep interest.

It would be unwise to build our hopes too high, but there are none here to-day who do not earnestly pray that the results from this project may prove of real benefit to the thousands who dwell upon these lands.

***His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's
Day Dinner on 30th November 1927.***

CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for this opportunity which has been given to me of attending your renowned St. Andrew's Day Dinner, and I thank you most sincerely for the cordial welcome you have extended to me.

I must thank Colonel Arthur for the kind and felicitous terms in which he has proposed the toast of the guests, to which it is my privilege to reply. I must also thank him for the too generous way in which he has referred to me personally. I could wish for no better recommendation to such an assembly than to be referred to as a "sportsman" and I certainly like a game of golf.

I especially appreciate his assurance of your sympathy with my difficulties and of your support in my trials, which gives me much encouragement in my not too easy task.

In his remarks Colonel Arthur appears to think it would be interesting to know what the guests think of their hosts. At this moment and after the repast you have provided for them, I feel I am justified in assuring you that your guests think you are jolly good fellows and perfect hosts, perfectly normal, and that you deserve most of the compliments which were showered upon your race, in years gone by, by Colonel Arthur's Indian journalistic friend. To-morrow there may be some who think you overdo your hospitality, but "if some

power the giftee gie you " to see yourselves as your guests see you, you ought to be satisfied.

This is a very remarkable gathering. I see here to-night numbers of men who play a leading part in every sphere of commercial, social and political life in Calcutta. They have spent the best part of their working lives in this city and are connected with and dominate the principal business interests in Calcutta. I am informed that one or two of them have done quite well out of their exertions. But I appreciate that all that is best in the social life of the city and in other parts of Bengal, whether it be Hospitals, Schools, Missions, Colleges and other charitable organisations, owes much to the support and interest of your community.

I was asking how many Scotch there were in Calcutta and I was informed that they number about a thousand. This number rather surprises me, as I feel somehow that I have met more than that number myself. Anyhow, I can say with all sincerity that I have not met one Scotchman too many.

We are all particularly glad to see Mr. Tassie with us to-night. I believe it was feared at one time that an unfortunate accident, which occurred whilst preparing himself for to-night's festivities, was likely to deprive us of his presence. I am informed that whilst demonstrating the relative value of the Scotch reel and the latest modern terpsichorean effort, something gave way, but it was when the Pipes essayed to Syncopate "Tullochgorum" that the crash came. However his presence here to-night demonstrates that indomitable pluck

characteristic of his race and the strength of the Scottish spirit of determination, when something has got to be done.

I greatly enjoyed his able and interesting speech, though there were one or two passages which caused me temporarily a blush of embarrassment. I was warned to expect one of those straightforward and downright utterances characteristic of a man of his temperament, who held strong views, which he was not afraid to express. I have not been disappointed. In the earlier portion of his speech, he did not appear to be altogether pleased with the way affairs had been handled as regards the administration of India—of late years. His admiration for politicians appears to be somewhat lukewarm, and he strongly resents a good business-man being turned into an indifferent politician when he gets nothing for his trouble. But in spite of his strong feelings that things were much better in the old days, I see in him the personification of progress, though I agree with him that we must progress upon sound and well-thought-out lines. But in these days, if we are to do our best by India in Politics—as in every other walk of life—progress is essential if you are to assure prosperity and contentment. The latter portion of his speech,—evidently spoken from the heart,—was the utterance of a man whose long association with and observation of India had created in him respect and affection for the land and its people and who most sincerely wished her well.

Before coming here I have read the speeches of some of my predecessors at this dinner. They all appeared to approach their task with some trepidation

in spite of most of them, as might be expected, being Scotchmen. I fear I can only claim to be the next best thing—a Yorkshireman, and I must like them claim your indulgence.

I have now been in Bengal eight months. I confess I came out with feelings of some anxiety as in no quarter did I receive much encouragement to expect that share of good-will which is so necessary, if one in my position can hope for moderate success. I must say that my experience during this limited period has not justified these forebodings. In the course of my public and private duties I have met with nothing but generous and respectful consideration, and the impression has forced itself upon me that the natural inclination of the people of Bengal is good-will towards the British. It is only where deliberate and calculated misrepresentation of British Administration and intentions have been sedulously instilled that one finds signs of suspicion and hostility.

Amongst politicians of all shades and thought, with one rather unfortunate exception, I have met with that courtesy which one might reasonably expect.

The political record in Bengal since the introduction of the Reforms has not been very satisfactory. Legislation urgently needed and earnestly demanded is absent from the Statute Book. There are two causes for this—firstly, the unsatisfactory financial position under the Meston Settlement, and secondly, deliberate and determined obstruction to frustrate the functioning of Government. If the object of those upon whom the main responsibility for this latter must rest has been to frustrate progress and

thereby decline to give any indication of a sense of responsibility or political wisdom, then perhaps they have succeeded; but the result must be not only to retard the attainment of their avowed objects, but at the same time to inflict undeserved hardship upon the people of Bengal.

There are several matters of local interest to which I should like to have referred, but at this moment the question which over-shadows all others is the appointment of the Statutory Commission and its visit to India in the near future, upon which I must say a few words. The reception given by the more vocal section of certain political leaders and certain organs of the Press to the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission was not unexpected. There had been plenty of indications that the appointment of any Commission, possible within the requirements of the Act and consistent with the paramount responsibility of the British Parliament for India, would meet with a mixed reception.

The non-inclusion of Indians on the Commission has been made the main cause for grievance, whilst the opportunities offered for Indian co-operation and collaboration, as explained in His Excellency the Viceroy's statement and the Secretary of State's speeches,—opportunities more generous and more complete than I believe could ever have been expected, are studiously ignored or misrepresented.

The debates in the Houses of Parliament and the unanimous approval accorded to the Government's proposals in both Houses have cleared the situation. In those debates it was demonstrated, I think beyond doubt, that the inclusion of Indians would

not help, but would almost certainly have foredoomed the Commission to failure. This non-inclusion does not in any way suggest inferiority, and there is no justification for the accusation of insult or affront to India's self-respect. The Government proposals unquestionably give an opportunity to Indians of direct collaboration with the Imperial Parliament in shaping their country's constitution, such as has never been offered in the history of any country in the world.

The Commission is now appointed and approved by all parties in the Houses of Parliament and it will shortly commence its deliberations. I appeal to Bengal to realise this accomplished fact, and, by making the most of the opportunities offered, to prove the possession of real political wisdom and sense of responsibility.

I was in Parliament when the Reforms Act of 1919 was passed. I know however unwelcome that Act may have been and however unsatisfactory it may have proved in working, that Act was undoubtedly an earnest expression of good-will and a genuine offer of an opportunity, by the British people to India, to show her capacity for managing her own affairs, with a view to proceeding gradually towards attaining a position of a self-governing partner within the British Empire.

In Bengal there has been a deliberate effort to prevent the fair trial of the Reforms Act of 1919. The Commission will enquire into the working of this Act, and one would have thought that Bengal would have been anxious for an opportunity thereby offered to demonstrate where the Reforms are at fault

and to suggest remedies, but at the moment this seems to be the last thing it is intended to do. I cannot help thinking that many of those who have taken a leading part in the opposition during these last eight years, must often ask themselves in the seclusion of their private life—what has been the result and what good has it done? There can be but one answer. I would suggest that they now ask themselves, in the light of experience, a similar question as regards the action suggested to be taken with regard to the Commission, before deciding to embark upon the futile, and what I believe is certain to prove disastrous, policy of boycott—a method of action which can bring neither credit to themselves nor peace or happiness to those they profess to lead. I would ask them to discard any suspicions as to the good faith and intentions of the British Government towards India and to face the reality of the position. If they will do this, I am confident that they will be pursuing the only course which can help them on towards the attainment of their reasonable and attainable aspirations.

I fear I have wandered from the Toast to which I am supposed to be responding, but I believe on this occasion you are in the habit of forgiving this kind of lapse on the part of the Governor.

On behalf of your guests, I must once more thank you for your generous hospitality and wish you all success and prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Conference of Chairmen of
District Boards held in Government
House on 3rd December 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of meeting the Chairmen of the District Boards. You have been called here to-day to consider a matter of very great importance to the life and interests of all the people in the rural areas of Bengal. During my visits to various districts in the Eastern and Western portions of the Presidency, I have had the opportunity of discussing with many representative public men in their own districts the problems which most nearly concern the welfare of the people. Without exception I found that the subjects which proved to be their main concern were water-supply, and roads and their upkeep. Where Union Boards have been established, they have all attempted to do something in the way of the provision of wells and roads. This is an indication of the importance they attach to these two questions as direct necessities of life.

My Hon'ble friend, Sir Provash Chandra Mitter, has been giving his attention to the problem of the supply of drinking water in rural areas and it is at his instance that this Conference has been called. Sir Provash has put forward proposals for a loan policy in connection with water-supply in the belief that by such a policy it will be possible to provide more expeditiously an increase in the

sources of supply, and at the same time provide the necessary funds for the upkeep of existing and future sources.

You will this morning have to consider, in the light of your experience of the needs of your own districts, both as regards finance and public health, two questions—firstly, whether the loan contracted should be for the whole Presidency or whether each district should raise a separate loan and, secondly, the machinery for giving effect to the loan policy.

I do not wish to anticipate in any way the trend of your deliberations. It is obvious that you will have to consider not merely what will be the relationship between the Provincial Government and the District Boards in respect to the loan or loans, but also the relationship between the District Boards and the Union Boards and *Panchayats*. As you are aware, at present the District Boards spend a proportion of their income from year to year on the provision of wells and tanks and Government have agreed to a grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs to be distributed through the Commissioners of Divisions to assist local bodies. The practice has been for Collectors and Subdivisional Officers in the districts, in consultation with the District Boards and the Union Boards, to utilise the Government grant by giving contributions towards the sinking of wells to villages where the Union Boards or *Panchayats* have succeeded in raising suitable local contributions towards the initial cost. The adoption of a loan policy whether on a Provincial or on a District Board basis needs careful consideration, to decide how it can be worked so as not to interfere with the continuity in Government policy with respect to its

own and the District Boards' grants-in-aid for water-supply. In a circular issued by the Local Self-Government Department on the 26th of March last, it was stated that the policy of both Government and the District Boards should be to endeavour to stimulate local effort, by making grants-in-aid in cases where Union Boards and village communities were prepared to provide *pro-rata* contributions.

I invite you to consider carefully the lines upon which you think we can best proceed to assure local self-help on the part of Union Boards and village organisations, in connection with the adoption of a loan policy.

I have every confidence that the result of your deliberations will enable you to advise the Hon'ble Minister as to what you consider the best line of advance. I wish the Conference every success.

I attach very great importance to the results, as there is probably no matter of more vital importance to Bengal than the provision of an adequate and pure water-supply.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Congress of the Far Eastern Association
of Tropical Medicine on 5th
December 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I deem it a great privilege to have the honour of opening this Congress to-day. His Excellency the Viceroy has asked me to convey a message to you which I will now read—

“It is with great pleasure and with a keen sense of the importance of the occasion that I welcome your Association to-day. India early recognised the possibilities of the movement which started, I understand, by the enterprise of a small group of earnest workers in Manila in 1908, and has progressed until now it embraces nearly all countries of the Far East, and is generally recognised as the most representative and authoritative organisation dealing with the public health and diseases of warm climates. We are, therefore, highly gratified to have the opportunity of welcoming its members to India, where there are still such great opportunities for those interested in medical research. Indian representatives on your Association have been hospitably entertained in the past in Manila, Hong-kong, Saigon, Java, Singapore and Tokyo. I trust that our guests may carry away as pleasant recollections of the Congress as our own delegates preserve of previous gatherings elsewhere.”

“I wish your Congress all success. I feel sure that the free interchange of thought and the opportunities for meeting, under pleasant social conditions, workers of different nationalities and of varying experience will have a real value for those who are gathered here to-day.”

Gentlemen, this is the Seventh Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine, though it is the first to be held in Calcutta.

The history of medicine in India begins with the *Vedas*, which are believed to date back to 1500 B.C., but the best known names in connection with Indian medicine are *Sushruta* and *Charaka*, who flourished about five or six hundred years before the beginning of the Christian era.

Their writings are, I understand, still revered by many practitioners of medicine in India and all of us can unite in paying homage to these great men of old, who lived and worked before the time of Hippocrates.

The modern history of medicine in Calcutta contains some names of special interest to workers on tropical diseases. The names of Timothy, Lewis and Cunningham will be familiar to many of you. Their work was done at a time when interest in medical research was low, and so their discoveries have not received the recognition which they deserve.

You are all familiar with the epoch-making discovery, which was made by Major Ronald Ross, about thirty years ago. You will be interested to see here in Calcutta the little laboratory in which he toiled and wrested from Nature her jealously guarded secret of the transmission of Malaria. It is a matter of great regret that Sir Ronald, now full of years and honours, is prevented by ill-health from being with us to-day.

You are also familiar with the work of Sir Leonard Rogers, who worked for many years in

the Medical College, where many of your meetings will be held.

Sir Leonard was not merely a research worker, but was responsible for the erection of the New School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in which a small band of workers are engaged in pursuing the researches which were, and still are, the obsession of Sir Leonard's life. The work done by Ross and Rogers will always be proudly remembered in India, and this School in Calcutta is a fitting and worthy monument of their labours, skill and perseverance.

There are men who are now engaged in medical research in Calcutta and doing splendid work; you will see them for yourselves and I am sure that they will greatly appreciate the opportunity of exchanging ideas with fellow-workers from Japan, China, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippines, Indo-China, the Federated Malay States and the other countries of the Far East, as well as workers from America and Europe.

Your presence here is most gratifying, and for two reasons, one is that we may show you what is being done here; and what is perhaps more important, that we may learn from you and obtain suggestions for the improvement of our work.

Among our welcome guests are men whose names stand out pre-eminently in the domain of medical discovery. Drawn from all nations of the world, they possess a wide and varied experience of the ravages of tropical diseases—many of them have fought all their professional lives with these enemies of humanity and in many cases have defeated and exterminated them.

During your visit you will discover and appreciate the vastness and complexity of the problems which confront our workers in India, and if you make your survey of India in a sympathetic spirit, you will probably realize the serious efforts which are being made in Bengal and all over India for the control of disease.

From the early days of British rule in India the importance of Public Health was realized, but the policy of Government was based on the view that it was necessary, first of all, to educate the people and to secure their goodwill towards Public Health measures. For this reason attention was first concentrated chiefly on medical relief. This may not have been the quickest way, but it was probably the surest and safest, and that the policy has justified itself is proved by a steadily growing demand, not merely for doctors, but also for health officers.

Prevention is better than cure, but we cannot force preventive measures on unwilling people any more than we can compel a horse to drink merely by bringing him to the water.

There are some hopeful signs in Bengal. I am informed, that thousands of people are coming for intravenous injections for the treatment of *Kala-azar*, which is one of our special scourges.

Inoculation against Cholera is readily accepted by people who a few years ago would have resisted to the death. People with early leprosy are coming forward in numbers for treatment, and generally there is a gratifying increase of the receptiveness of the people for modern methods of treatment and prevention of disease. Another hopeful sign of the

times is the rapid rise of voluntary co-operative societies for the control of Malaria and *Kala-azar*: the success of these is chiefly due to the efforts of a former Assistant of Sir Leonard Rogers—Rai Bahadur Dr. Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.

The awakening of a spirit of self-help is a great advance; it greatly facilitates the work of Government agencies, and it is likely that Dr. Bentley will be able to show you how rapidly the attitude of the people is changing. Apathy and indifference are disappearing and in many places there is an embarrassing demand for preventive measures, especially against Cholera. More inoculations against this disease have been carried out in the past few months than in all the years since the introduction of *anti-cholera* inoculation. If we lay stress on the hopeful signs, you must not imagine that we minimise the difficulties which still lie ahead: the obstacles to advance have not yet been swept away, but it is important that they are beginning to yield and it is likely that we are approaching a period of interest in public health, which will require even more tactful handling than the prolonged apathy of former generations.

Research work appears to have outstripped the practical application of the results of research, but we cannot afford to call a halt in research. Every new important discovery has a great value in promoting the efficiency and economy of public health measures. The recent discoveries in connection with the treatment of *Kala-azar* have made it possible to organise a campaign against that dreadful disease, whereas a few years ago we had to look on while the people died miserably. The discoveries

which remain to be made in the future will doubtless be of great value in simplifying the problems of preventive medicine and it is for this reason that the Congresses of Medical Research Workers have been welcome guests in every country which they visited.

Such a Congress as this should be welcomed to Bengal as a relieving army to the besieged. We in this Presidency are unfortunately the victims of several virulent scourges such as Cholera, which at the moment is very rife, Malaria and *Kala-azar*, and we are hopefully looking to the results of your deliberations to help us along the road towards some relief.

I beg to offer this Congress a hearty welcome to this city and to Bengal, and to express the hope that their stay here may prove enjoyable and that your memories, when you leave, will be in all respects satisfactory and agreeable.

His Excellency's Reply to the Informal Address presented to him by the Kankinara Labour Union during his visit to the Kankinara Jute Mill on 6th December 1927.

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to me to have this opportunity of meeting the Kankinara Labour Union, and I thank you for your address to which I have listened with care and interest.

I came here to-day at the invitation of Sir Alexander Murray to see the Mill and to learn first-hand the conditions under which manufacture of jute is carried on. I readily fell in with the suggestion of Mr. Roy Chaudhuri that I should meet your Union on this occasion.

I am pleased to note that your Union considers that the best way of furthering the legitimate objects of your Union is by avoiding, as far as possible, the mixing up of matters concerning labour with political issues, and in this decision I think you are wise.

In your address you draw my attention to your endeavours to improve the conditions of living of the mill-hands through better sanitation. This is a most worthy object, and I feel sure you will receive the support of the owners of the mills, as it is obviously in their interest that the housing conditions should be such as to assure good health and contentment amongst the mill-hands.

I note that for some years your Union has interested itself in the improvement of the sanitation and health conditions in the Bhatpara Municipality. I understand that administrative approval has been given to an improvement scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 21 lakhs upon sewerage and waterworks, to which Government contribute Rs. 7 lakhs and the Mills Rs. 12 lakhs. The scheme includes some incidental town-planning, involving the opening of roads, which should facilitate better housing.

I appreciate the request for direct representation of the workers on the Municipal Board. It is desirable that the industrial interests in this area should have suitable representation on this body.

You express a desire for the institution of Provident Funds and Co-operative Credit for the working people. Any system for provision against old age is an object worthy of support and my experience has been that the establishment of welfare centres, connected with works, add to the contentment and thereby to the efficiency of the artisans.

You consider you have cause for complaint that the opportunity offered of erecting a school on the ground presented by the landlord, Mr. Goswami, has not been taken advantage of. I have made enquiries and I find that the present accommodation afforded is not now fully made use of and some hesitation has been felt at proceeding with larger schemes, whilst this state of things continues. I understand, however, that the proposal for the building of a Maktab on the site referred to is now under consideration, and I hope the scheme will materialise in the near future.

I note that from time to time you have been visited by gentlemen connected with some of the Political parties in England, when you have had the opportunity of hearing their views on labour questions. They will agree that labour conditions in England and in India are not at all the same thing, and never will be. Great care must, therefore, be taken to view the conditions in India from a proper perspective. England has experienced great difficulties in connection with labour, which have culminated in stoppages of work, but this way of settling disputes has proved to be wasteful and disastrous to all concerned, and now great efforts are being made, which look like succeeding, to establish such an understanding between the employers and employees that it should be impossible for serious disputes to arise, which cannot be settled amicably by discussion. This effort, which is being made in England, and which is based upon the outcome of experience, is an example which Trade Union Movements in India would do well to consider and emulate.

I have been greatly interested in what I have seen this morning in this great mill. It appears to me to be a model of efficiency, and as it is directly under the control of such a man as Sir Alexander Murray, I feel quite certain that the best interests of those who labour within it will always receive sympathy and justice.

***His Exoellenoy's Addresses to Reolplents
of Sanads and Badges at the Caloutta
Durbar held on 7th December 1927.***

RAJA SATYA NIRANJAN CHAKRABATTI BAHADUR,

You are a member of one of the most loyal Zamindar families in Bengal. In the year 1916 you were invested with the title of Raja. Since then you have maintained the traditions of your house by contributing liberally to many works of charity and public utility. You take a great personal interest in public affairs and have proved yourself a successful Chairman of the Birbhum District Board. I congratulate you on your advancement to the title of Raja Bahadur.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA DR. BHAGABAT KUMAR
GOSWAMI SHASTRI,**

You have a distinguished record of scholastic research to your credit and have earned for yourself a position of authority in the sphere of Sanskrit learning (beth modern and traditional). You have been a very successful Professor of that language, and the learned books you have written, both in Sanskrit and Bengali, have been warmly welcomed by the educated public. Your book in English on the "Bhakti Cult" in ancient India has received flattering notices from European and American scholars. It gives me great pleasure to hand you the *sanad* of the title of Mahamahopadhyaya which you have so deservedly won.

**THE REVEREND AGGAMAHAPANDITA UPASAMPANNA
DHAMMAWANSA,**

You enjoy the reputation of a profound scholar in Buddhistic lore. Besides the reputation which you have earned as an author, you have taken an active part in educational work. You have held the post of Lecturer in Pali in the Chittagong College for a period of 22 years. On account of your deep learning and piety you are held in veneration by your own community and have won the respect of others. The title of Aggamahapandita has been conferred upon you in recognition of a life of scholarship, and devotion to the cause of education.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT ANANTA KRISHNA
SHASTRI,**

You are an author, editor and commentator of several important treatises on Vedanta Philosophy, Memangsa and the Dharma Shastras, which are regarded as original and valuable contributions to Sanskrit literature, disclosing deep and extensive scholarship. You have been associated with the Education Department for a number of years and have been Lecturer in Vedanta in the Post-Graduate Department of the Calcutta University. The many original and critical works composed and edited by you bear testimony to your vast erudition and the title of Mahamahopadhyaya has been most worthily conferred upon you.

KHAN BAHAÐUR MAULVI EKRAMUL HAQ,

You have taken a prominent part in public life and your work as Vice-Chairman of the District Board of Murshidabad and Commissioner of the

Berhampore Municipality has been of exceptional value. In the Bengal Legislative Council, of which you have been an elected member, whilst preserving an independent judgment, you have been of great assistance to Government. You have taken a special interest in Tenancy Law and were a Member of the Utbandi Committee. Your influence with your community has been exercised in the direction of encouraging good-will and restraint.

I have great pleasure in presenting you with your *sanad*.

RAI KHAGENRA NATH MITRA BAHADUR,

You entered the service of Government so far back as 1901 and have been Lecturer in the Post-Graduate Department of the Calcutta University since 1914, which post you have filled with distinction. You have been a Member of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State. You take a comprehensive interest in the extra collegiate activities of the students, such as their societies and unions. Your services have been recognized by the award of the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI UPENDRA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI BAHADUR,

You have been a member of the Bengal Medical Service for over 22 years. You have gained the reputation of a Surgeon of high attainments, and as a teacher of the Campbell Medical School, you have displayed great ability and power of administration. You have set an excellent example to the students and are much respected by all including staff and students. Your long and distinguished services have merited the honour which has been conferred upon you.

RAI JOGENDRA NATH SINHA BAHADUR,

In recognition of your public services you were honoured with the title of Rai Sahib in 1913. You have been an Honorary Magistrate for 35 years and for more than 20 years have taken an important part in the administration of the Nadia District Board, the Chuadanga Hospital and the Chuadanga High School. Your zeal for the public service has continued unabated and the advancement to the higher title has been fully merited.

RAI PANDIT GOBIN LAL BONNERJEE KAVIRATNA BAHADUR,

You are a distinguished scholar with a profound knowledge of Sanskrit. You have rendered honorary services of the utmost value as a member of the Board of Examiners, Calcutta. You are a lover of learning for its own sake. The distinction conferred upon you has been well earned.

RAI RAMESWAR NATHANY BAHADUR,

You are a prominent member of the Indian Merchant Community in Calcutta. Your many acts of charity and generosity have earned for you the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI MANMATHA NATH GUPTA BAHADUR,

You received the title of Rai Sahib in 1919 and your excellent work as Pay and Accounts Officer, Survey of India, has won for you the higher title.

KHAN BAHADUR RUSTOMJI PESTONJI,

You were awarded the title of Khan Sahib in 1921 for distinguished public work. You have maintained the high standard of your work and

liberally subscribed to works of public utility. As a further mark of appreciation of your services, the higher title has been conferred upon you.

RAI JNANENDRA CHUNDER GUHA BAHADUR,

You received the title of Rai Sahib in 1920 and since your appointment as Public Prosecutor for the Excise Department in Calcutta, you have done extremely good and assiduous work and this has earned for you the higher title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI SAHIB BHUPENDRA NATH BANARJI,

You entered the Bengal Police in 1905 and were transferred to the Calcutta Police in 1914. By dint of merit you have risen to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police. You have admirably carried out your duties at every stage of your career, in appreciation of which you have been honoured with the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB TARAKESWAR BHATTACHARJI,

You entered the service of Government in 1905 as a member of the Subordinate Executive Service and in due course were promoted to the Provincial Excise Service. You have done work of conspicuous merit in both services, in recognition of which you have been awarded the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB SAURINDRA NATH MITRA,

You have been employed in the Police Department for the last 19 years. You have evinced a particular aptitude in the branch of the service with which you are connected; and your services have been consistently meritorious. In 1921 you

were promoted to the honorary rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and your valuable services deserved this further recognition.

RAI SAHIB JITENDRA MOHAN MITRA,

You have efficiently held many ministerial posts under Government and at present are the Shorthand English Reporter in the Intelligence Branch. For more than three years you have faithfully discharged your arduous and responsible duties under the Commissioner of Police.

RAI SAHIB KALI KRISHNA BHADRA,

You have discharged your duties as the Chief Interpreter of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, with great ability and devotion and this has earned you the respect not only of the Judges, but also of the bar and the public. You have thrown yourself with enthusiasm into charitable enterprises undertaken by the officers of the Court and it is in no small measure due to your efforts that many charitable funds have materially benefited. The title awarded to you has been fully merited.

RAI SAHIB ANANTA KUMAR BANERJEE,

You entered the service of the Eastern Bengal Railway and by dint of merit have risen to your present position of Superintendent, Establishment Branch, of the Agent's Office, in which capacity you have done your work with marked ability. You have also taken an active part in organizing for the welfare of the railway employees.

RAI SAHIB SUSHIL KUMAR GANGULY,

You joined the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) in 1905, and have filled many exacting offices with great success. You have done excellent work in the Co-operative Department and by your ability and character have earned the respect of the general public.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NATH BANARJI (No. I),

As a member of the Bengal Junior Civil Service you have a consistently good record of work to your credit, and for the last three years you have worked as a Circle Officer with great keenness and success.

RAI SAHIB PRAFULLA KUMAR BISWAS,

You have done invaluable work in the Intelligence Branch and have carried out many important investigations at great personal risk. You were awarded the King's Police Medal in 1919 and your loyalty and trustworthiness deserved this further recognition.

RAI SAHIB ADYA NATH RAY,

You entered the Education Department in 1898 and were promoted to the Bengal Educational Service in 1919 and now hold the important charge of the Hare School. You have proved yourself one of the most successful headmasters of the province.

RAI SAHIB GOPI NATH SEN,

You have to your credit a long record of faithful, honest and hardworking service in the Posts and Telegraphs Audit Offices which entitles you to this honour.

REV. J. H. HICKINBOTHAM,

You have been engaged in missionary work since 1898 and have devoted yourself to the education of orphan and destitute boys, for whose benefit you give your private income. Your unselfish life has stimulated the Christian community of Nadia and won you the affection of all communities.

As Principal of the King Edward School, Chapra, you have concentrated on the education in agriculture and handicrafts of village boys. Your work on local bodies has also been of great value. In recognition of your life of unselfish service, Government have been pleased to award you the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal of the First Class.

BABU HARENDRA KUMAR CHAKRABATTI,

As a Medical Officer at Naogaon in the district of Rajshahi you have been markedly successful in the treatment of *Kala-azar*. You have gained the confidence of the people and are highly respected—hundreds attending your dispensary daily. Government have been pleased in recognition of your services to award you the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal of the Second Class.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Dinner
given by the Far Eastern Association of
Tropical Medicine in Calcutta on 10th
December 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure and privilege to propose for your acceptance the toast of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine. We, in India, have every reason to give a sincere response to such a toast, as there is no country in the world which has more cause to be thankful to Scientists for the services she has received in the past, or more cause to hope for further assistance, which she urgently requires in the future. She has reason to be particularly grateful to many who have assembled here this last week during the meeting of the Congress. There is scarcely any tropical disease known to men, to the obtaining control of which they have devoted their professional skill, which does not afflict the people of India. In many countries in the East they have laboured towards the elimination of these scourges with remarkable success, and during this Congress they have willingly and generously given of their fund of knowledge for the benefit of those, who like themselves, are labouring to similar purpose in this country.

The benefits to be derived from the results of such a Congress, when properly applied, must be invaluable. I can think of no work more 'estimable or which' in itself should give cause for greater satisfaction than that which aims at the relief of human suffering from tropical diseases.

It has been demonstrated by results obtained in several Eastern countries, that it is possible to control and even eliminate some of the worst scourges. It must be to your eternal credit that the only recompense you desire and receive is the gratitude of humanity.

I am glad to hear that your Congress has been a success : this has been due to the excellent organisation for which Colonel Cunningham and Colonel Stewart have been responsible, and they were loyally helped by the co-operation of everyone who attended the Congress.

In welcoming you to Calcutta, I expressed the hope that you would be able to give us useful advice in connection with our grave problems of disease. I understand that my hopes were amply justified and that our medical men have received much help, stimulation and encouragement. We trust that our guests and you may derive satisfaction by knowing that hundreds of medical workers from all parts of India have greatly benefited from knowledge which has been provided for them.

Every member of the Congress will doubtless become a messenger, who will convey to many others the information which he has acquired, and in this way the efficiency of the whole medical profession of India will be increased.

I understand there have been differences of opinion with regard to some of the subjects which have been discussed. This is as well, as too much agreement might create a feeling that the problem was solved and that further research was unnecessary.

On the other hand, it is satisfactory to know that there has been a remarkable degree of unanimity as to the practical measures, which are necessary to cope with such diseases as Malaria, Cholera, Plague and *Kala-azar*. While you all agree that more knowledge must be acquired, you also agree that more use must be made of knowledge which at present exists.

Governments and local bodies will now have confidence in pushing forward measures, which have received the approval of distinguished experts from every part of the world. We, in Bengal, are glad to learn that the great campaign of inoculation against Cholera, which is in progress, is regarded as one of the most effective methods of controlling the disease. It is not the only measure, but when we are attacking an enemy like Cholera, we cannot afford to neglect any weapon which has been proved to be effective.

The problem of *Kala-azar* has been fully and ably discussed at your Congress and I am told that there is general agreement that the line of research, which was opened out by workers at the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, and the *Kala-azar* Commission, is regarded as being full of hope. The methods of treatment are already satisfactory, but further improvements can be looked for.

I was interested to hear that the food supply of the people of India had received very special attention at the Congress. This subject makes a special appeal to laymen, who not infrequently conduct dietetic experiments on themselves, though these are not always scientific.

I understand that you have spent some time in considering the ravages of the ubiquitous and iniquitous mosquito—those malevolent messengers of Malaria. Your unanimous decision on their activities and how to meet them must prove a most acceptable guide to the Health Departments of Governments. I am hopeful that you will yet teach the mosquito, when it takes its evening meal from me, that the mark of its gratitude it leaves behind would be more acceptable if less pronounced.

In proposing this toast I must not forget the ladies who have accompanied the Congress and who have graced our proceedings and honoured Calcutta by their presence. Their interest and assistance are a great stimulant to those who devote their lives to research in tropical diseases.

I have to couple the toast with Dr. Heiser of the U S. A. and Dr. Deggeller of Java. Dr. Heiser, as you are aware, is a representative of the Rockefeller Foundation in the East and is one of the original members of the Association, whereas Dr. Deggeller of Java is the General Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.

The value of this Congress which you have just completed is unquestionable, and with all sincerity and gratitude I now give you the toast of the Congress of Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Conference of Inspectors-General of
Prisons on 12th December 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of meeting the Heads of the Jail Administrations of the various provinces throughout India.

I welcome you to Bengal and I have no doubt that as a result of your deliberations we may obtain information, which will be useful to us in the administration of jails.

As you are aware, the subject of Jail Administration has recently been occupying the attention of the Government of this Presidency, and a Committee, which was set up, made many recommendations, to carry out which will involve a large expenditure. We are, however, beginning to deal with what we consider to be the most urgent of these recommendations and for which the necessary financial provision is forthcoming.

From personal observations in the jails throughout this Presidency that I have visited, it appears to me that the most urgent matter is the pay of, and the provision of suitable quarters for, the warder staff. I must say that in one or two jails that I have visited I have been horrified at the quarters provided for the warder staff, and I think there is no one responsible for jail administration who will not agree that the pay is inadequate to secure the supply of the right class of men for such positions.

Another point which strikes me as very important and which has been dealt with by the Jails Enquiry Committee, is the provision of facilities for the proper training of the warders. Their recommendation for the establishment of a training school for the purpose has my full sympathy, and I go further and say that it appears to me, in the interest of efficient jail administration, that steps should be taken, as soon as possible, to give effect to this recommendation of the Jails Committee.

The two subjects concerning which I should like to say a few words are, firstly, the treatment of adolescent offenders with a view to giving them a chance of making good in the future, and secondly, the classification and separation of the habitual criminal from the first offender. Now as to the adolescent, the partial introduction of the Bengal Children's Act of 1922 to Calcutta and its suburbs should have a beneficial effect. Up to last year the Act of 1922 had not been brought into force owing to lack of finance, but we hope, now that a beginning has been made in Calcutta, to extend the Act throughout the whole Presidency at an early date. A Borstal Act was passed at the last session of the Bengal Legislative Council and, as a first step to make it effective, the district jail at Bankura is in process of being converted into a Borstal School. Unfortunately outside Calcutta at present, young children are still being sent to jail for petty offences and, though invariably segregated, have not had that rational treatment which is being proved to be so efficacious in many countries. It is also urgently necessary to provide for the after-care of adolescent offenders, and this cannot be done

without an effective Borstal Association, and to provide help and work for those, who have been released from the Government school, when it is established. We have much to learn in this respect from the province of Madras where a flourishing association, I believe, is in existence. The public of Bengal have not yet awakened to the important social consequences of the after-care and reformation of those adolescents who have offended against the law, and to the desirability of affording them a chance of leading respectable lives, when released. I am glad to say that several ladies and gentlemen, representative of all classes and creeds, have promised assistance and the establishment of a sound non-official organization is now likely to materialise.

Another subject of great importance is the problem of the improvement of the classification of prisoners and the separation of the habitual from the first offender. The jails of Bengal are badly constructed, and have very few facilities for securing the separation of the various classes of prisoners. The only way of tackling the problem appears to be the provision of a special jail for habitual prisoners and the introduction of the star class into the non-habitual jails. The Government is at present considering the conversion of the Presidency Jail into a special habitual jail.

We have made some progress with the education of our present prison population. An experiment of compulsory education in the Alipore Central Jail, for all long-term prisoners, has had good results and we have reason to expect that, with education occupying some of the prisoners' time, and giving them a new interest, jail discipline will improve.

This end will also be gained by a contemplated increase in the number of instructors in useful industries. These biennial conferences of Inspectors-General of Prisons should have beneficial results by enabling officers of all provinces to correlate their experiences and to discuss and suggest measures for the improvement of the prison population. This will help Government to keep abreast of modern ideas as to the treatment of the criminal, which appear to be that you should try, by the influence of education and reformation, to help him to become a decent and useful citizen.

You are all, gentlemen, of great experience in Jail Administration in India. Your discussions will be carried on and your recommendations made with due regard to all conditions prevailing in India. I have no doubt, if we could carry out all your recommendations, we should have ideal jails and perfect administration, but our resources are limited and you will, no doubt, remember that.

I welcome you with much pleasure to Calcutta and trust that your stay may be agreeable and your deliberations satisfactory and beneficial to all.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual
Dinner of the Institution of Engineers
on 13th December 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the privilege afforded to me of responding to the toast of The Guests. This enables me to thank you on their behalf for your most generous hospitality and gives me an opportunity of welcoming so many eminent Engineers to Calcutta. I must also thank the President for his personal reference to myself and assure him of my interest in your institution and my sympathy with its objects and ideals.

The objects of your institution are "To promote and advance the science, practice and business of engineering in all its branches in India and elsewhere, and to diffuse amongst its members information on all matters affecting engineering." You are to meet in conference when your discussions will afford an opportunity of giving and gaining information in connection with your profession which, I have no doubt, will prove of good value to you all. It is only after nearly nine months' experience in Bengal that I am able to realise the extent to which we must depend upon the help of our Engineers for the satisfactory administration of India. I did not appreciate properly the ramifications of the Engineer. Roads and buildings, railways, irrigation and waterways, sanitation—all come within his sphere. We could not get far without him.

I think I am not putting it too high when I say that upon the advice and work of our Engineers the health and prosperity of the country largely

depend. At the recent Medical Congress in this city it was definitely stated that the first necessity in any attempt to prevent the scourge of Cholera is the supply of pure drinking water. This is a matter for the Engineer. The prevention of the accumulation and the removal of foul water and garbage by surface drainage and sewerage are matters for the Engineer in conjunction with the local Health Departments. The production of schemes of irrigation, to supply water to districts, which are periodically short of rain, and for the drainage of inundated areas, is the work of Engineers. In all these matters much depends upon the efficient manner in which the work is carried out and a special responsibility devolves upon the junior branches of the service who find themselves in charge of detailed work. Slovenly or careless work in detail may spoil a large and expensive scheme and result in more harm being done than good. Every man in each branch of the service must appreciate that upon the way his particular job is carried out depends the success of the whole. It is also necessary to watch carefully that works in construction may not become in some indirect way the cause of trouble. I can conceive that in the construction of a road or railway, it may be necessary to dig borrow pits, which fill with water and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes. This will spread Malaria. It would appear that wherever possible water-supply tanks should be made in combination with the road or railway schemes, and schemes taken up together might prove to be mutually economical.

The Engineer and his work conduce greatly to the prosperity of the country. Trade development

needs roads, railways, docks, etc.; and generally good communications. Mechanical and Electrical Engineers provide the machinery, lighting and power—so, put together, health and prosperity depend much upon, and owe much to, the efforts and skill of Engineers.

We have a number of Engineering projects of vital importance to the health and prosperity of Bengal. At present actually in the course of construction there are the Kidderpore Docks, the Bally Bridge, the Damodar Canal and the improvement of roads. The schemes in prospect are the electrification of railways round Calcutta, and this might result in a central railway station for this city, and last but not least a bridge across the Hooghly, connecting Calcutta with Howrah, of such a character as may be able to cope with the enormous traffic which grows yearly. I can hardly believe there is any Engineer in India who, if asked for an opinion, can honestly state that the present bridge, or anything like it, is suitable either structurally or economically for the purpose for which it is required. A permanent and solid structure capable of carrying the burden it must bear, undisturbed by tide or traffic, can surely be the only one worthy of consideration or worthy of Calcutta.

I have wandered far from the toast, but I must claim that indulgence which is invariably accorded to the Governor after dinner. If I have been too long you must blame your generous hospitality. On behalf of your guests I tender you our heartfelt thanks and on their behalf offer you their sincere good wishes for your personal and professional success and prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Annual Meeting of the Associated
Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta on
19th December 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to me to be present at the opening session of the 9th Conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and I deem it a special privilege to have this opportunity of meeting representatives of leading business and commercial interests from all parts of India. A gathering such as this must naturally be regarded as of great importance, and your deliberations and decisions will be watched with much interest. The Chambers of Commerce of India are endowed—and rightly so—with much influence and their views and recommendations on questions affecting the trade and commerce of the Indian Empire command respect. This is earned by the direct interest which businessmen of great knowledge and experience take in the work and deliberations of the Chambers in the various cities where they exist.

Gentlemen, I find myself in congenial company this morning. For several years I was a member of an important Chamber of Commerce in England, and on many occasions I attended the Conference of the Associated Chambers in London, and I learnt then the value which can rightly be attached to the views of such gatherings composed, as they were, of leading representatives of different trades in their districts capable of speaking with authority:

The Chambers of Commerce of various provinces are enabled through representation in various

Provincial Legislative Councils and also in the Indian Legislature, to take a direct part in the administration of Government. The Provincial Governments have every reason to be grateful to those who gave their valuable time and services in the interest of the country in these various Assemblies, and the assistance of their experience and knowledge of commercial life is of exceptional value to the Legislatures.

I have studied your agenda and I observe that the subjects to be dealt with at this annual meeting are practically all matters appertaining to the sphere of the Central Government rather than of Local Governments. I do not propose to ask your attention to purely local matters, as you have enough in your agenda to occupy your whole time. Nevertheless, Local Governments are deeply interested in such central subjects as Commerce, Marine, Income Tax, etc., about which they are consulted by the Central Government.

I note the first resolution on your agenda relates to the subject of Income Tax. On this subject I need only say that we, in Bengal, would like to participate in a share of what is paid by commercial and industrial interests in this Presidency. We feel that as an industrial province under the allocation of Central and Provincial finance, we are entitled to a larger share of the proceeds derived from the industrial development in this Presidency.

Though the Government of Bengal have not the last say in respect to subjects connected with trade and commerce, their views and criticisms are asked for, and duly considered by, the Government of

India. During the last year many subjects of importance to your Chamber have come before the Local Government for an expression of opinion. The matter of the prompt payment of wages and the question of the necessity of undertaking legislation in connection with deductions from wages in the shape of fines were put forward for consideration by Government. In Bengal, on the whole there was very little evidence of much delay in the payment of wages or hardship to employees on account of the payment of fines. The Government of Bengal after careful consideration came to the conclusion that the proposal of the Government of India to set statutory limits to the time within which wages must be paid was both reasonable and practicable. As to fines, the Government of Bengal saw no reason for legislation to be undertaken. So far legislation in the matter has not been proceeded with.

Another matter, about which our opinion was asked during the year, was in respect to the draft regulations under the Indian Mines Act proscribing the employment of women in mines. The principle of the abolition of female labour under-ground was accepted by the Government of Bengal several years ago, but we consider that the date proposed by the Government of India, namely, 1st of July 1929, did not give sufficient opportunity to the interests concerned to adjust themselves to the new conditions, though we accepted the view that the process of abolition should start in 1929.

The Government of such an industrial Presidency as Bengal must naturally give close attention to problems connected with labour, and it is gratifying to note that since 1921 there has been a marked

improvement in the relations between capital and labour. It is our duty to keep in close touch with labour organisations, to watch the relationship between employers and employees, and to scrutinise carefully any new labour proposals coming from the Government of India. New legislation has been passed, including a Workmen's Compensation Act, which appears to be functioning satisfactorily, and the Indian Trade Union Act based largely on Trade Union Legislation in Great Britain has been introduced.

This latter Act passed in 1926 came into effect from this year and now this Presidency has a Registrar of Trade Unions to guide, direct and to a certain degree control the growth of the Trade Union movement. The aim of the Act is, by the adoption of the machinery of collective bargaining, to provide a means of avoiding strikes. This seems necessary in view of the fact that in Bengal during the year 1926-27, the number of recorded strikes was 58 involving an estimated loss of about 1½ million working days.

The relationship between capital and labour in India is a subject which must be of exceptional interest to the business community at this moment. Great endeavours are being made to organise labour, the success of which must depend on the methods adopted in creating these organisations. There is a natural anxiety that these organisations shall be based upon a belief that good-will is the best foundation and not distrust and suspicion. The tendency of some leaders to produce a feeling of hostility between the employers and employees is to be deprecated. Those who do that, are not

animated with any desire to reach a goal by peaceful methods. It will be necessary for those who lead labour in this country to study the real position in England to-day and not to rely too much upon the perfervid oratory of Trade Union organisers who appear to be out of touch with a new spirit which has arisen in England. For years England has suffered from innumerable and disastrous stoppages—the experience of which has shown that the results obtained through the methods of strikes and lock-outs are equally ruinous and calamitous to all concerned. No immediate or lasting benefit accrues but rancour and bad feeling are engendered and stick.

A movement has been started, and looks like succeeding, which should make the weapon of strikes and lock-outs obsolete and in their place machinery will be established under which it should be possible, with reasonable good-will, to settle disputes by amicable agreement.

In your opening remarks you referred to the intervention of Government in an industrial dispute. I can quite appreciate the feelings of a body of business-men in respect to this question and you are quite right to take advantage of the presence of the Hon'ble Member for Commerce at this Conference to discuss it. In England, the Government is averse to intervening in any industrial disputes, unless forced to do so in the interests of the State. I think the same policy applies in India. Where intervention by Government is expected, negotiations between the parties concerned must be prejudiced and intervention by Government in industrial disputes should be only as a last

resort. It must always be difficult to determine how and when Government's intervention should be made. .

I came across some remarks of a President of the Board of Trade which were made in the House of Commons some years ago. He said :—

“The more I have seen of them the more I am convinced, first, that the best and most satisfactory method of settling disputes between employers and workmen is for the parties directly concerned to come to an agreement among themselves. Secondly, that when the parties are unable themselves to come to terms, and a stoppage of work is imminent, or after a stoppage of work has taken place, assistance from outside is very often effective in preventing, shortening, or ending a dispute. Thirdly, that this method of action, if and where it takes place, must be done at the right moment, in the right way and by the right person.”

These words spoken 12 or 15 years ago are, I think, appropriate to the position to-day.

You also referred to the Statutory Commission which is coming to India shortly. I, like you, do not intend to dwell upon their visit to-day. You no doubt appreciate, as you must do, the necessity of the Commission's receiving all possible assistance from the business and commercial communities in India. I feel sure that this assistance will be accorded.

I beg to thank you for your patient attention, and in declaring this Conference open, I trust your stay in Calcutta may be agreeable and I look forward with every confidence to the results of your deliberations proving beneficial and in the general interest of all people in India.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Saturday Club on 19th December
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I deem it an honour to be asked to take part at the opening of the new building of the Saturday Club this evening. I listened with much interest to the history of the Club, which Mr. Langford James gave in his speech. I notice the Club was founded some 50 years ago, and I was interested to hear what its original objects were. Mr. Langford James questioned under which of the heads "the mid-night game of Cricket sometimes indulged in came;" I suggest—"Amusement of a Rational Kind." If, however, it had been golf, perhaps "Facilitation in the study of Languages" might have been appropriate.

I feel I must congratulate you upon this fine new building. I cannot imagine anything better for the purpose for which it is required. At the same time I may be allowed to remind you of the unselfish work and trouble which have been so willingly taken by the Special Committee and all those immediately responsible for its erection. Perhaps I may also mention your Secretaries—Mr. Bell and Mr. Standish, who have devoted so much time in connection with this work and Mr. Tassie, the Chairman of the Committee, who has shown an indefatigable interest, as well as Mr. Langford James, who put through the lease.

I have spent several evenings in the old building, and my wife and staff appear to spend every night

in the week, except Saturday at the Saturday Club ! Your Club is already renowned, and now that your Band is broadcasted to Australia, you are better known than ever. It is one of those places in Calcutta which has afforded countless thousands much pleasure and amusement, and it still supplies to its members and guests opportunities of social intercourse and amusements of a rational kind, for which they are grateful and which, I trust, it will continue to provide for many years to come.

In declaring the new building open, I wish it all prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Indian Science Congress on 2nd
January 1928.***

MR. PRESIDENT, SIR RAJENDRA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I find myself in the position in which I am this morning, owing to the unavoidable absence of His Excellency the Viceroy through illness. In the ordinary course it would have been my privilege, as Chancellor of this University of Calcutta, to welcome the Viceroy to open this Congress, but in the absence of His Excellency, this duty has fallen upon me, and as Governor of this Presidency and also as Chancellor of the University, I beg to offer a hearty welcome to the Indian Science Congress to Calcutta. It will be a matter of regret that His Excellency is unable to be with us to-day. I know he is personally very disappointed, as no one appreciates more than he the value of scientific research to the progress and prosperity of India, and you can depend upon every encouragement from him.

This is the third occasion upon which the Congress has met in this city, since your Association was founded in 1912. On the two previous occasions it was presided over, in 1914, by Sir Asutosh Mukharji, one of the most eminent educationists that India has produced, and, in 1921, by Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, who has gained by his sterling qualities a position not only of one of the most prominent citizens of this city, but has also made a name which is held in the highest respect throughout British India and, indeed, the Empire.

One of the first sponsors of the Congress was Dr. J. L. Simonsen and it is most fitting that he should preside over this, the third Session in Calcutta. I understand he has come from England for this express purpose, and this proves his devotion to your interests.

The Association of the Congress has always been closely associated with the University of Calcutta. The names of Sir P. C. Roy and Sir J. C. Bose appear amongst the list of past Presidents, which shows the intimate relationship of Calcutta with your Association. In this connection I may also be allowed to mention the names of Professors Raman and Dr. Saha.

Upon the work of Scientists depends, to a great extent, the solution of those problems which lead to the material and moral welfare of the peoples of the world. The progress of present-day civilization owes much to the development of scientific research amongst the peoples of the West, and I trust that in the course of time, through your endeavours, the scientific spirit will help to revivify the ancient civilization of this country.

For the votaries of science the paramount consideration is the investigation of the secrets of Nature and their utilization for the benefit of humanity.

In the work of unlocking the secrets of Nature, you are taught by tradition and training to bring to bear on the problems before you a mind free from bias, prejudice and pre-conceived ideas. Facts are observed, investigated, catalogued, correlated and classified by you, and when proved beyond question,

they form the basis upon which you raise your structure of the conception of the phenomenal world. The history of science reveals the clash between the impersonal attitude of the scientific mind and the pre-conceived notions of the age, to which belonged privileged votaries of science, who devoted themselves to win the victory for truth and reason. Their struggles and sacrifices have not been in vain, as the results of the triumph of science are patent to the whole world.

Science has gradually achieved the freedom of the human mind from the domination of superstition and unquestioning belief. What was thought impossible in the past, and supernatural, has now become fact of everyday experience. I think I am right in saying that during the last quarter of a century the products of scientific research and investigation have been little short of phenomenal. Science in the West is over two centuries old in the lands of its origin. In India, you are marching along, learning from the West and in some subjects teaching the West. In Physics, the standard has reached a high level, which has been duly recognized by numbers of Indian scientists being awarded Fellowships of the Royal Society and other rare distinctions. With the spread of the spirit of Science, old barriers will be obliterated and it should bring about a silent revolution in the amenities of everyday life. As the public gradually appreciate the claims of science on their support, and the number of men trained in scientific methods increases, and they are given an outlet for organized team work, one may picture India fully utilizing for the benefit of humanity its intellectual and material resources.

This hope can only be realized by the encouragement of organized research by leaders of industry and a generous public. As India advances in the domain of science, the contributions of Indians to the progress of scientific knowledge and the development of industrial processes should proceed together. We witness to-day signs that a good beginning has been made, and that India is coming forward with her contributions to the progress of science. This University is proud to be so intimately connected with your Association. The fact that the Congress is being held within the precincts of the University should provide encouragement and inspiration for those who are now endeavouring to fit themselves for a career in which scientific knowledge is paramount.

I take this opportunity of wishing your Congress all success and trust that the result of your deliberations may prove beneficial to the people of India. I regret that pressure of work will not permit of my staying to hear the address of Dr. Simonsen. I am very conscious that I am missing an education in science which I badly need, but I feel sure that Dr. Simonsen will understand that it is only pressing engagements that cause me to leave this Hall, and I must content myself with the pleasure of reading the speech when delivered.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in declaring the Congress open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Centenary
Celebration of the Serampore College
on 7th January 1928.***

MY LORD BISHOP, DR. HOWELLS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must thank you for your most kind welcome. I am especially grateful to you, Dr. Howells, for your generous references to myself. I think this is one of those occasions when I should prefer to be introduced as an old Cricketer rather than as an old politician, as I imagine, judging from my experience in Bengal, that we may find ourselves more in tune in the spirit of cricketers than we might do in the spirit of politicians.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of visiting this College to-day on this interesting occasion, when you celebrate the centenary of the incorporation of the College by Royal Charter granted in 1827 by the King of Denmark, when the College was assigned the status of a University authorized to grant degrees and diplomās. This Charter was revived in recent times and modified to meet modern circumstances by the Serampore College Act of 1918 so as to be the basis of the conferment of degrees and diplomas in Theology on qualified students of all Churches to-day. This occasion is not only interesting to you, but, indeed, to the whole Presidency of Bengal: the benefits derived from this College have permeated throughout Bengal.

I have studied the history of this College and have listened with much interest to the eloquent speech of Dr. Howells. The College was founded in 1818 by Dr. Carey, together with Drs. Marshman and Ward, who can be regarded as the pioneers of missionary effort in this part of India. They laid the foundation of education established through missionary endeavours, which has progressed and proved of such inestimable benefit throughout India. I have had the opportunity already of visiting several important educational institutions throughout Bengal, all of which owe their existence and their present position to missionary work. It is, indeed, right that these three great men should have a lasting monument in Serampore. We see it in the shape of this College, and I trust that it will continue to prosper, and that for many years their noble work and example may be the source of inspiration to all who study here.

In the early days they were faced with difficulties. The old East India Company did not look with a too friendly eye on missionary work, and Dr. Carey encountered their opposition, but it was not long before he overcame this hostility and completely converted the East India Company to friendship and support, and the College received the approval of the then Governor-General, Lord Hastings becoming the first patron.

The students who attend the courses here have before them the ideals of the founders of this College. Their main object was the social and educational advancement of Bengal, and they undoubtedly foresaw and hoped for the political and educational progress of to-day. Those who have the

advantage of studying and understanding their teaching should be able to appreciate the true meaning of freedom, and the growth of political institutions, which should help them to form that attitude of mind, which rejects the catch-words of ephemeral politics, but holds on to those broad principles, which history has shown of value to the growth of a national polity.

Perhaps the most striking achievement of Dr. Carey was, through the translation of the Bible to give a great impetus to Bengalee language and literature. His linguistic studies crystallised the language from being an unsettled dialect into the refined and comprehensive vehicle of a great literature. In their zeal for the study of theology and for higher learning, the missionaries did not forget the needs of the masses of the population, but established primary schools for the education of village boys and girls. The students of this College are therefore, heirs to a tradition of scholarship and social service which few institutions can surpass and I urge upon them to try to be worthy of ideals of your foundation.

Dr. Howells has referred to the future of the College and to some of the difficulties with which it is faced. One serious question with which we are faced in Bengal is the limited field of employment for college students, after they have completed their course at the Universities. It is not wise to regard the study in these colleges solely as a "vocational education." University education must be regarded as a means to an end. Such experience and knowledge, as you obtain during your University career, ought to prove of benefit

in any course of life in which you find yourselves, but it is a mistake to regard success in ordinary University examinations as an assurance to employment in some particular line. Also it must be advisable that those whose standard of education obviously shows them unlikely to benefit from an University course, should realize it and turn their attention in other directions, which may be more suitable to their capacity. Since the standard of University examinations has been raised, the percentage of failures appears to have been somewhat large, which would go to show that there are a number of students whose standard of education would not fit them for obtaining suitable benefit from an University course.

I regret to notice that the number of students has fallen during the last few years. I do not know the reasons, but many colleges, I understand, are going through a similar disappointing experience, but you need not be discouraged. The fall in numbers and the consequent financial loss cannot, I fear, be by itself regarded as a reason for increased Government assistance. Government in the past have rightly shown an active interest in this College and have given it substantial financial support. At present the College receives an annual maintenance grant. This will be continued, and when Government are in the happy position of having some money, which they never seem to have, at their disposal, they will sympathetically consider your increasing requirements.

I was personally interested and pleased to hear that provision is made for suitable recreation for the students. I believe that this side of College life

is not the least important. Physical as well as moral and intellectual education is necessary and should help one another.

We are all well aware of the good work this College has done in the past. We must never let it fail. There is plenty of scope for equally good work in the future and under your able guidance, Dr. Howells, this is assured. Your traditions for over 100 years are such as to warrant encouragement and support, and I am prepared to do, what I can, to help you to continue your good work.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta University Convocation on 11th February 1928.

VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to address you to-day for the first time as Chancellor of this University. I find myself occupying this position as Governor of this Presidency, and it will be my duty and desire to use my best endeavours as Chancellor, to assure the efficiency and progress of this University. Education, in all its branches in Bengal, is a matter which demands the anxious and constant consideration of any one occupying the position of Governor.

It is many years since I was in close and intimate touch with University life, and I can say without hesitation that the idea that one day I might be faced with the responsibilities of Chancellor of a University, let alone two, was not one of my youthful fancies. My four years spent as an undergraduate and graduate at Cambridge, and later as a Member of the Court of a Provincial University, enabled me to gain some experience of what a University could, and should, do for those whom it undertakes to prepare for the larger life, and what a University can be expected to give to, and what it might expect to receive from, the men and women who come under its charge.

I have already addressed, in my capacity as Chancellor, the University of Dacca in Convocation. There is an essential difference between the two Universities, which provides added interest for one so directly connected with both. In Calcutta, the

University can claim experience and tradition, which come with age. The number of students, including those in the numerous colleges affiliated to it, amounts to over 30,000, including 12,000 in Calcutta, and appears at first sight to involve a staggering proposition. This University wields a great influence and bears a correspondingly great responsibility.

Dacca is young and relatively small. It is unitary and non-affiliating. It was fortunate in having the advantage of the Sadler Commission's report, upon which to base a new organization, and this it wisely decided to adopt. Calcutta, on the other hand, in whose interest the report originated, has so far preferred to follow a cautious attitude, apparently awaiting the time when the path of change has been surveyed and tested, and it may feel justified in moving forward upon lines suggested in that report.

The University of Calcutta, as an organized Corporation, which numbers amongst its sons names greatly honoured in the academic and educational life of this Province, has jealously maintained its right of criticism, and indeed of rejection, of proposals, from whatever quarter they may come. Its considered judgment as to what is best in the interests of higher education in this Presidency, must always be treated with the greatest respect. It is nearly ten years since the Sadler Commission made its famous report upon this University, and though many of the recommendations in the Report have been adopted in the Universities of other parts of India, they have not so far been favoured here. I feel, however, we are fast verging towards a general

consensus of opinion that changes, serious and far-reaching, are overdue, and I shall watch with sympathy and interest your efforts to modernize your constitution in conformity with present-day requirements.

I know well that University life in India differs in many respects from that in an English University. In Bengal, a University has far wider and more difficult functions to discharge than a University in England. A large number of the men who go to the Universities in England have had the advantage of the experience of the corporate life of a big school, whereas in Bengal so far the conditions of school organization are less advanced. In England, in the schools, in work and in play, the boys are trained under strict discipline, which is a sure foundation upon which the formation of character can be based. In Bengal, the Universities have imposed upon them the difficult task of doing or of attempting to do for the students what the schools have often neglected to do.

The value of a University course must depend to a large extent upon the use the individual makes of it. It relies for its good name and standing upon the way in which the students respond, not only to the rules and regulations and customs, which must be established in any University worth the name, but also to a sense of responsibility for, and a pride in, the well-being and dignity of the University, to which they should consider it an honour to belong.

The Calcutta University can claim to be the oldest and largest in India. It stands in the midst of the first city in India. The aims of all those who have the interests of this University at heart should

be to strive to make it worthy of the pre-eminent position it should hold. The capacity of the students of Bengal, if trained from the start upon a sound foundation, is such as should enable them to attain to the highest distinction. The honours degree here should be such as will bring real joy and pride to the successful, and be comparable to the standard of any other University. I am glad to know that most of you are determined by steadily raising standards, wherever possible and required, to keep up the credit of your University.

I feel a particular interest in the student life of this University. My life at the University of Cambridge was that of an ordinary student. I did enough work to keep out of trouble and to enable me to take my degree. I entered with a full heart into all the pleasures and amusements it afforded, and I daresay I occasionally enjoyed some of those outbursts, which are common to the exuberance of youthful spirits. My admiration for those who gained the highest distinction was unbounded. At the same time I realized the incalculable value of the facilities for organized games and sports from which, if properly played, so many useful lessons can be learnt. From experience I can commend sport for 'varsity men as a much better game than politics.

I have been impressed by the amount of money annually spent upon University and higher education by Government, relative to that spent on elementary education. The support which a University can expect to receive from Government must be based upon visible results. It depends upon the proper appreciation by all connected with the University of its objects and purposes, and a

determination to avoid and resist all attempts from outside and from self-interested quarters to make illegitimate use of the University corporate organization for other than legitimate University objects.

Now I should like to offer my congratulations to those graduates who have been awarded their degrees by this University to-day. I trust you will jealously guard its good name and advance its reputation. Your influence will not be measured solely by the knowledge you possess. No one is better aware than yourself, except perhaps your Examiners, how little you really know of those subjects in which you have taken a degree, but I trust that you have acquired through your work at this University a power of clear judgment, a self-reliant and just intelligence and ability to discern the true from the false, the real from the apparent. If you have done this you may, indeed, be hopeful not only of a successful career in any walk of life you adopt, but of being able to render useful service to your country.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a matter of regret for me that my first visit as Chancellor of this University could not be made under happier conditions. I am informed that amongst those who took an active part in the disturbances which occurred within the neighbourhood of the University last week, when an attempt was made to interfere with, and offer resistance to law and order, were students of this University. It is not the function of the University to question the rights of individual political opinion, but the unseemly conduct of members of the University,

acting no doubt under the incitement of outside influence, is calculated to shake the confidence of the supporters and well-wishers of the University's progress. It is obvious that an institution which includes amongst its members some so devoid of a sense of order and discipline cannot be regarded otherwise than with anxiety and misgiving. As Chancellor it should be my duty and pleasure to assist as best as I can your just requests for support from Government. This I am prepared to do, but I am alarmed lest Government may feel it their duty to consider seriously whether the measure of support which is at present given, might not, in the general interests of education, be diverted into other channels from which experience, has shown they may expect better results. The University should support the College authorities in any action they may think necessary to take, to enable them to restore a spirit of orderly study and to prevent a recurrence of such incidents, which bring nothing but disgrace and disaster to all concerned.

I feel there is no one who has been more disappointed and hurt by recent events than the Vice-Chancellor. I know how he has laboured with selfless devotion upon the task of administering this University which should stand out as one of Bengal's most treasured and valued possessions. During his term of office he has shown sound vision and a masterly grasp of the problems of organization. I can associate myself with the Vice-Chancellor in the work he is doing to secure for our University, through its standards in degrees and its general administration, a position second to none in India.

In the conditions of sensitive instability, which characterize public opinion in India at this moment, and which appear to have affected the student life of this University, what is required more than anything else is a frame of mind, informed of accurate knowledge, responsive to discipline, actuated by a sense of justice and determination to subordinate private interests to public welfare. The situation immediately in front of us is one of anxiety and difficulty, but such a position arises to be faced and overcome. To succeed, the willing co-operation of every distinguished son of the University is expected. No good results ever came from refusing to face facts or shirking responsibility. Cool heads and calm consideration should enable us to find a satisfactory solution and assure *that* quiet and orderly progress, which is necessary if this University is to fulfil its useful purpose.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Dinajpur on 14th February
1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you most sincerely for the cordial welcome you have extended to me and my wife on the occasion of our first visit to Dinajpur. The presentation of addresses by so many representative and important bodies of the town and district is exceptionally gratifying, and I wish to express my appreciation to the Municipal Commissioners, the Members of the District Board and the Muhammadan, Land-holders' and Merchants' Associations for their kind consideration.

I acknowledge your expressions of loyalty and attachment to the throne and person of the King-Emperor.

I note that in all the addresses my attention is called, with commendable thoroughness, to the requirements, urgent or otherwise, of the locality in almost every sphere of local administration. I do not blame you; but on the contrary I welcome the expression of your views and requests upon all such matters, with which you are so deeply concerned, especially as it gives me first-hand knowledge of what are considered to be pressing needs of your district.

You no doubt all appreciate that the fulfilment of your requests and desires involves the expenditure of large sums of money, towards which you

ask Government's assistance. There is no question that the proposals put forward, in which Government's assistance is required, are in themselves not only desirable, but in most instances appear to be necessary in the general interests of the inhabitants of this district; but you must also realize that the difficulty Government are faced with, however great their desire may be to help you, is the insuperable one—that there is no money available to meet all your requirements. The financial stringency in Bengal, owing to the present financial arrangements with the Central Government, is most severe and the revenue upon which we must depend for the ordinary administration of this Presidency, with its 46 millions of inhabitants, is wholly and hopelessly insufficient and inadequate for the purpose. I feel bound to mention this, in order to help you to understand me, if my reply to your addresses is somewhat disappointing.

You have been good enough to allow me to give a combined reply to all your addresses. The subjects dealt with cover matters of public health, water-supply, education and communications by rail and road. I may first take public health. I realize that in this district you are faced with serious problems in connection with the health of your community, and I should like to express my appreciation of the efforts which have been made by the Municipality and District Board to meet them.

During 1909-12, the Government carried on an anti-malarial campaign in your town. They could not afford to undertake such a campaign year by year in all towns affected by Malaria, nor could they relieve the Municipal Commissioners of a duty

which they should discharge themselves. I am glad to note that both the District Board and the Municipality have paid considerable attention to the problems of Malaria and *Kala-azar*. The District Board is maintaining 40 dispensaries and has already opened five centres in connection with the Government scheme of rural public health organization. The Government help by the supply of free quinine, special grants for anti-*Kala-azar* work and subsidies for the establishment of dispensaries at thana head-quarters, as well as of village dispensaries. The District Board draws my attention to the necessity of provision of house accommodation for the rural public health staff. The maximum grant contemplated by Government is Rs. 2,000 per centre and the total expenditure ultimately involved would be about 12 lakhs. The provision of this sum will strain provincial resources, so that an increase in the grants for each centre can scarcely be contemplated. Moreover, it was originally calculated that the amount of Rs. 2,000 would permit of a house allowance to each Assistant Health Officer.

Closely connected with the problem of public health is the provision of water-supply in urban and rural areas, drainage schemes for the towns, and hospitals and dispensaries for the town and mufassal. The Municipal Commissioners appear to have a scheme to establish a waterwork, but I am told that no such scheme has as yet been submitted to Government. I suggest that schemes for water-works and drainage and also for your Sadar Hospital should be worked out and submitted for consideration by the departments concerned. All such schemes

are considered by Government on a basis of providing a grant not exceeding one-third of the total cost. I have always regarded the supply of good water in the towns and rural areas as a vital necessity. The present Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government is also deeply interested in the question. He called a conference of District Board representatives to consider the feasibility of a loan policy for rural water-supply. His idea is that District Boards should set aside a part of the yearly allotment which they make for water-supply, for the service of loans, and should borrow the amount needed to bring about an immediate and comprehensive improvement in the water-supply of the country side. The District Board representatives were in general agreement, and a circular on the subject will shortly be issued.

Both the Municipal Commissioners, the Members of the District Board and of the Muhammadan Association are all equally exercised about the problem of educational advance. The Government of Bengal is in much the same position as the District Board and the Municipality, in that it cannot afford to spend on education very much more than it does at present out of its present income. If universal primary education is to be established, as it should be without delay, I fear it cannot be done without some new taxation for the purpose. I observe that the levying of an educational cess at five pice in the rupee on the annual letting value of lands is regarded by the Muhammadan Association as excessive, but at the same time it asks that the educational grants to the district may be increased. This district will, of course, share in any increase

of provincial funds which may be available for primary education. But it must be understood that even if a Bill involving taxation for the development of primary education in rural areas is not enacted, development under the Biss Scheme, by which Government and local bodies provide half of the costs, respectively, cannot go on indefinitely. Progress on these lines too depends upon the willingness of the local people to find the money through taxation and under present financial condition in Bengal without some taxation for educational purpose, Government will not, I fear, be able to go on guaranteeing indefinite contributions.

A subject mentioned in all the addresses is that of communications. I am pleased that I am to have the privilege of opening the Dinajpur-Ruha Railway to-morrow. I note your wish that the southern part of your district may be linked up by a railway between Balurghat and Dinajpur, as well as that the newly started line may be extended from Ruha to Siliguri. You may be assured that, subject to the financial resources available for development, the Railway Board is constantly considering the prospects of desirable projects. The possibility of extending the line from Ruha *via* Titalya to Siliguri has been considered by the Eastern Bengal Railway and provision has been tentatively made in the next quinquennial programme for the survey of this extension in 1931-32. As to the Balurghat proposal the result of the last investigation showed that the project did not justify inclusion in the list for early construction.

The Government appreciate the anxieties of local authorities as regards the maintenance of Municipal

and District Board roads, as well as the necessity for the effective control of motor vehicles. The increase of motor services will, I think, ultimately lead to a demand by users for roads of the best modern type, for which they must be prepared to pay.

So far as the control of motor traffic is concerned, model bye-laws have been framed and it is suggested that the Municipal Commissioners should adopt those. You are doubtless aware that a committee is now sitting at Delhi, with the object of evolving a scheme for taxing owners of motor vehicles and using the proceeds for road development. It is contrary to Government policy to take over from local authorities the responsibility for maintenance of roads, but it is expected that a Road Fund will be created when it may be possible to make special grants for the improvement of inter-district and important roads.

The suggestions made by the Members of the District Board as regards the taxation of carts have been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, who is taking up the question of the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act.

My Government have been much concerned about the condition of scarcity in the southern part of the district in consequence of the drought. It is most unfortunate that owing to the shortage of rain the distribution, by way of agricultural loan, of Rs. 6,000, in order to enable *rabi* seeds to be bought, was unproductive. I feel sure that Government will consider a report of the Commissioner as to its remission. In view of the large sums spent by the District Board in taking steps to open relief works

for employment of labour, Government are prepared to give further help, though they realize that the failure of crops was confined to a smaller area than in Malda, Burdwan and Birbhum. The District Officer is watching the situation and is in constant touch with the Revenue Department which is considering the respective needs of the different districts affected by the drought. Whatever it may be found necessary to do in the future, the District Board will be assisted by Government on the advice of the local officers.

I fear it is not possible within the limits of the time at my disposal for reply to deal with all the matters brought to my notice in your addresses. There are, however, one or two other matters I must refer to. The Muhammadan Association express disappointment at the nomination list in the last District Board election. On the basis of population and voting strength, however, the Muhammadans appear to be entitled to 12 seats, whereas 14 members of the community were elected, two more than their quota. It was for this reason, that no Mussalman could be nominated, as it was necessary to redress the balance. As regards the representation of the Muhammadans on the Provincial Legislative Council, the Dinajpur Muhammadan constituency is above the average size in population and in number of voters. An additional seat, however, could not be granted to the constituency without disturbing the proportion of the Muhammadan seats in the Council—a proportion which has been carefully fixed. Slight inequalities in representation are inevitable, if territorial units, such as districts, are to be kept intact. Such

readjustments of inequalities in representation must await the Statutory Commission.

The Land-holders in their address asked that an approximate forecast of the demand for jute may be made known to the cultivators before sowing time, in order to prevent over or under plantation. Government recognize the value to the grower of having full information as to the probable demand in any year, but though information can be obtained in Calcutta from the trade as to existing stocks, it is no easy matter to make this information available to the individual grower. If there were any practical means of disseminating the information through an agency that would command the confidence of the cultivators, Government would be glad to consider the matter. Government, however, would not be prepared to supplement a statement of fact such as the information about stocks would be, with the publication of a forecast. The dangers of so doing are obvious and such as Government could not risk.

His Excellency's address to Khan Bahadur Yaquinnuddin Ahmed when presenting him with the sanad of his title at Dinajpur on 14th February 1928.

KHAN BAHADUR YAQUINUDDIN AHMED,

As Chairman and Municipal Commissioner, Dinajpur Municipality, Vice-Chairman and Member of the District Board, you have rendered prominent and valuable services. For a number of years you have been a successful Government Pleader of Dinajpur and have always offered willing co-operation to Government officials. The grant of the title of Khan Bahadur is a fitting recognition of the varied services you have rendered.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Dinajpur-Ruha Railway on 15th
February 1928.***

MR. PEARCE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to me to have the privilege of taking part in the opening of the first branch line that has been constructed by the Railway Administration since the war. During my tours, I have been impressed by the problems presented through large tracts of agricultural land lacking the means of access to markets for its produce, whether by road or railway. This railway, which I am to open to-day, will link up the Thakurgaon subdivision with the town of Dinajpur. That subdivision, as has been pointed out by the Agent, has great agricultural possibilities. At present its surplus paddy, jute, tobacco, sugarcane and potatoes are exported by bullock and buffalo carts. There is every reason to expect that the advent of the railway, by making both old and new markets easier of access; will greatly develop the agricultural industry of the subdivision.

The alignment has been well chosen, being parallel to the drainage of the country. There is no danger, therefore, of its construction rendering any area liable to inundation or affecting health by increasing in any way prevailing Malarial conditions.

Public bodies both in this district and in Jalpaiguri express the hope that the line will be in time

extended to Siliguri, in order that the tea industry of the Duars may be brought within easy reach of the agricultural products of the Thakurgaon subdivision, and thus help to solve the difficult problem of the food supply of their immense labour force. How soon can it eventuate must depend upon the existing line proving sufficiently remunerative. That the Railway Administration are ready to do their part, if a reasonable return upon expenditure is forthcoming, is proved by the fact that provision has been made in the next quinquennial programme for the carrying out of a survey of this extension. Whether Ruhea is to be connected with Jalpaiguri or Siliguri cannot be decided until it is first determined as to whether the Teesta river can and will be bridged, and, if so, where—for on the locality selected for that bridge connecting with the Duars will depend the alignment of the further extension of the Dinajpur-Ruheā Railway.

I wish to congratulate all those who have been in charge of the constructional work of this branch, and I would, in this connection, specially mention Sardar Sahib Ram Singh, Executive Engineer in charge. The fact that the construction of 48 miles of railway has been completed in ten months proves the energy and efficiency with which it has been carried out. I also congratulate the doctors on the health of the staff and labour force, as well as Mr. Edwards, the Engineer-in-Chief, Construction and Surveys, whose arrangements have been largely responsible for the expeditious way the work has been carried out. I must thank Mr. Pearce for his kind welcome.

I have very great pleasure in declaring the branch line open, and I have every hope that the people of this district will give the enterprise of the Railway Company such support as will ensure the early extension of the railway, and that it will prove of lasting benefit to the district and those who dwell here.

His Exoellenoy's address to Sardar Sahib Ram Singh, when presenting him with the sanad of his title after the opening of the Dinaipur-Ruha line at Kanohan on 15th February 1928.

SARDAR SAHIB RAM SINGH,

You joined the State Railway Service in 1911, and are at present employed as an Executive Engineer on the Eastern Bengal Railway. Your consistently good work has received the approbation of the Railway Board, and as a mark of their appreciation of your valuable services, the title of Sardar Sahib has been conferred upon you. It gives me great pleasure to present you with your *sanad*.

***His Excellency's reply to the Addresses
presented at Jalpaiguri on 16th February
1928.***

GENTLEMEN,

I greatly appreciate the cordial welcome accorded to my wife and me on this our first visit to Jalpaiguri and I thank the Municipal Commissioners, the Members of the District Board, the Duars Planters' Association, the Anjuman-Islamia and the Indian Tea Planters' Association for their addresses.

In order to be able properly to appreciate the problems of administration in this important area, and especially those connected with communications, I hope to be able to make a tour through the Duars in the near future.

Last year I received a deputation at Darjeeling from the Planters' Association, when they expressed their anxiety as regards the situation caused by the erosion of the river Teesta at Barnes. I have had the opportunity of discussing the problem of possible connections between the Bengal-Duars Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway with the Chairman of the Railway Board. I understand that since the railway line at Barnes was breached by river erosion, a retired line has been constructed by the railway which has considerably decreased the possibility of a further breach in the near future, as this retired line lies at a considerable distance from the river. The Public Works Department have also constructed flood embankments at Barnes at a cost of Rs. 18,000. The question of providing an alternative outlet from the Duars in the event of

a breach in the Bengal-Duars Railway has been closely considered by the Government and the Railway Board. Several alternative proposals have been investigated. The most feasible proposal is the possibility of connection with the Duars along the water-shed between the Jaldacca and Torsa rivers.

With this object the Board have just sanctioned a reconnaissance survey for a line of railway to connect the eastern end of the extension of the Bengal-Duars Railway with the Cooch Behar Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway near Gitaldah Junction. The advantage of this proposal appears to be, that if the Teesta should join up with the Jaldacca river and cross the Eastern Bengal Railway through the bridge, known as the Dharla Bridge, near Mogalhat and destroy it, the traffic from the Duars would still have an exit through Dhubri into the Brahmaputra river.

The main problem to be determined in tackling railway communications in the Duars is whether the Teesta can be bridged, and if so, where. Upon the determination of the site of that bridge largely depends the problem of these railway connections.

Equally important to the industries and agriculture of this district is the road system. This is brought to my attention by the Members of the District Board in a request for the provincialization of a road from Dhupguri or alternatively from Madarihāt to Alipur Duars. A request for the metalling and maintenance of a road was also made to me by a deputation of the Planters' Association. Since seeing that deputation, I have been paying considerable personal attention to the position of Government in respect to the assistance they afford

in connection with communications in the Duars, and Government are reviewing their policy, as laid down by Sir John Cumming, upon which they have hitherto proceeded. It may be necessary to revise Sir John Cumming's conclusions. However important this line of communication may be, it must take its place in a general scheme for provincial roads. A general policy will shortly be drawn up when it is hoped a Road Fund will be created. We must, however, await the results of the conference recently held in Delhi, in connection with road development throughout India. Meanwhile, until Government have determined how far they can take up further commitments, I must warn you, I fear, that I cannot hold out much hope in the present financial stringency that Government will be able to provincialize more roads at this moment.

The administrative re-adjustment proposed in the District Board address, and also in the address of the Duars Planters' and Indian Tea Planters' Associations, namely, that the Madarihat thana should be transferred to the Sadar subdivision, is a matter entirely dependent upon communications. This transfer was rejected, on administrative grounds, by Government in 1925. The arguments used to support the transfer apply with almost equal force to the transfer of the Falakata thana to Sadar, and this transfer would leave the Alipur subdivision too small and make the Sadar subdivision too large for one Subdivisional Officer. The Deputy Commissioner considers that, if a metalled road were constructed from Madarihat to the Torsa and from the Torsa to Alipur *via* Hasimara, Kalchini and Raja Bhatkhawa,

communications, would be comparatively easy throughout the year. When Government consider their whole policy regarding communications in the Duars, the administrative needs of linking up this part of the district will be carefully weighed. I have not, I fear, been able to hold out to you much likelihood of the provincializing of further roads in the immediate future, but when I make my tour round the district, I shall bear in mind the problems which you have put before me in the addresses, and I hope I may eventually discover some means of meeting your requests.

The Municipal Commissioners have referred me to the problem of their water-supply, as also have the Anjuman. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, informs me that he has a water-supply scheme for the town of Jalpaiguri under preparation, and that he will soon be able to send it to the Municipality. I am unable, however, to hold out any hope that Government can give a larger grant than the usual one-third of the cost.

The people of the town and district have shown great public spirit in their support of the proposals for the establishment of a medical school and I congratulate the District Board in that it has made itself responsible for the increased recurring cost of maintaining the enlarged hospital, in addition to a large lump sum contribution. I express our appreciation to the tea gardens and the general public for the generous support they have given to the scheme. Government have reason to be satisfied with the extent of the local support assured, and every effort is being made to get the estimates completed and approved, when I hope that

the work of construction may be begun. I may say that I will give my personal attention to this matter.

I have read with great interest the reference in the address of the Indian Tea Planters' Association to the possible construction of a hydro-electric power station in the Duars. There is no question, where it is possible, that every advantage should be taken where nature can help in the supply of cheap power. The project of such supply from rivers was investigated over ten years ago, and Government took considerable interest. The reason given for the discontinuance of the inquiries was that adequate water power would have to be sought for outside British territory. This project appears to be a matter of immediate concern to the planting community, and any proposals in connection with such a scheme, which they like to put forward, would receive the most careful consideration of Government.

In their addresses the Indian Tea Planters' Association have made requests for special representation of their Association in the Provincial Legislature, and the Anjuman, for the formation of Jalpaiguri into one constituency instead of being joined with Malda. The question of representation both of communities' interests and areas, will, I presume, be reviewed by the Statutory Commission and this request, in common with others, will then be considered. I would ask you to submit your case to the Commission at the proper time.

The establishment of a Jury system in your district must largely depend upon your educational progress.

The district remains educationally backward, and I think that it would be advisable to wait and see how the Union Board system, which it is proposed to introduce in areas west of the Teesta, works before the Jury system is introduced.

The question of education in this particular district is one which I commend for the earnest attention of your local bodies. You may be assured that the Education Department will consider with every sympathy any projects for its advance.

I see my friend Nawab Musharruf Hossain here to-day. He is a worthy son of this district and holds the important portfolio of Education. His efforts for the advancement of this vital national necessity will always receive my hearty support.

I want again to thank you for your addresses and cordial welcome to this important town for whose progress and prosperity I beg to offer my sincere good wishes, and I look forward to future visits with much pleasure.

***His Excellency's address to Khan Sahib
Mahatabuddin Ahmad when presenting
him with the sanad of his title at
Jalpaiguri on 16th February 1928.***

KHAN SAHIB MAHTABUDDIN AHMAD,

You have been in the service of Government for more than 24 years. During this long period your work has been consistently exemplary. You have displayed great devotion to duty, and your administrative ability, tact, and integrity of character have gained the confidence of all sects and classes and have earned for you the distinction now conferred upon you.

His Excellency's Speech at the Rotary Club Dinner on 6th March 1928.

GENTLEMEN,

Before I propose the toast which is down in my name, I would ask you to bear with me for a few moments, whilst I refer to the lamented death of that eminent Indian—Lord Sinha. Tributes to the high character and life service of Lord Sinha have poured in from every quarter and they correctly interpret the esteem and regard in which he was held not only in Bengal, but also in England and throughout the British Empire.

With exceptional ability, sound judgment and courage of his convictions he combined a personal charm which is a natural attribute of a cultured Indian gentleman. The calls upon his service took him out of India to England where he spent a considerable period of his later life. Whilst there his first thought was for India and his work was centred in her interests.

My personal acquaintance with him was limited, but I shall not forget his generous and kindly advice before I started to take up my present position in Bengal, and I have on many occasions had reason to appreciate its value. He will be mourned by all who knew him and his death creates a gap which will be hard to fill. His motto may well have been "Service before Self."

I must appreciate the opportunity of meeting the members of the Rotary Club this evening, and

I must thank you for the cordial welcome you have extended to my wife and myself. This is not the first time that I have spoken at a meeting of a Rotary Club, but I must admit that I had not until a day or two ago fully appreciated the history and objects of Rotary. I assumed, and, I have not apparently been altogether wrong in my assumption, that your gatherings were composed of a number of men with varying interests in life, mostly engaged in the professions and business, who meet together at regular intervals in a spirit of good-will and fellowship, actuated by the belief that whatever they do was worth doing well and honestly, and having in front of them all the time the ideal that their success should prove of some general benefit to their fellow-beings and the community as a whole.

I knew that the inspiration for the foundation of Rotary arose in Chicago, where I am inclined to think that the spirit of Rotary would still appear to need encouragement. I knew your motto was "Service before Self." But the knowledge I have lately acquired that in 20 years the movement has established in 43 countries with over 2,700 clubs and a membership of 132,000, enables me to appreciate its obvious importance and popularity, and I feel bound to ask myself—"What is there in the creed that gives such vitality?"

Service before Self is an ideal which has inspired most of the religions which have existed in the past and exist to-day. It is the mainspring of missionary effort. It must have been the moving force for all those who stand out prominent in public service;

and it has been the basis upon which most of the great social and ameliorative movements have been fashioned. The explanation of this vitality and progress may be, that you have successfully impressed the more mundane world of business that this old ethical creed is of equal importance in the fields of commerce and trade. You have, perhaps, impressed them that the more buying as cheaply as possible and selling as dearly as possible—the legitimate business method—does not discharge their whole duty to society. A man who does a good stroke of business feels better for the knowledge that the deal has been square and is in accordance with the ideal of service.

Nothing has been more remarkable in the history of the last half a century than this gradual evolution of a spirit of service amongst the manufacturers throughout the world—consideration of the well-being of the workers has become recognized not only as an economic necessity, but an ideal to be attained. Working almost unconsciously we have seen the factory legislation which safeguards the worker, the principle of compensation for ill-health, accident and unemployment, better housing conditions, more leisure for recreation and a higher standard of life all round. All this evolved from a desire to make the world a better place for men and women to live in.

Your Secretary has provided me with some literature in which the purposes of Rotary International are set out with some elaboration, and in language almost embarrassing in its lucidity for the ordinary Englishman, and I gathered from it that the intention which animates your proceedings and

conduct is that which in the world of sport is known as "Playing the Game." You endeavour to apply the spirit of true sportsmanship to the transactions of everyday life. Your object is to work as a team and with the team spirit wherever the wheel of Rotary carries you. You are prepared to throw the whole weight of your association behind any sound, beneficial scheme or proposal.

One of the greatest benefits to be gained from our best games is the comprehension that competition, however stern and severe, may be carried on in friendliness and good-will, not only in one field of endeavour, but in all. Your world-wide organization cuts across all divisions of race, religion and politics that divide men, and refusing to recognize any of these as a barrier to united effort calls upon your membership to take part in a common civil duty.

In no part of the world is such fellowship more certain to prove of benefit than in India. It is well that at this time the spirit of Rotary should be spreading in India, for the constitution of your organization makes possible the working together of men of all creeds and of races in the common weal. Opportunities of such good work multiply and it must fall to the commercial community to play a still larger part in the difficult and intricate work of education, guidance and government. Any help that you can give in promoting understanding has a real value. The co-operative purpose that you exact from all your members may help to provide the bridge for which all who are concerned in the betterment of India are seeking.

I read with much interest and pleasure those verses in the Rotary spirit—

“A little less self-sēeking, a little more for men,

Less bitter in our speaking, more kindly with the pen ;

A little less of swerving from paths of truth and right,

A little more of serving and less of dollar might.

More peaceful with our neighbours, and stauncher to our friends.”

These lines offer ideals which all of us will do well to ponder and remember, and, if carried out, will cause our difficulties to decrease and make our lives more agreeable and useful. In wishing your movement continued progress and success, I wish to couple with the toast the names of the new President and the Rotary International.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Kalimpong Homes on 8th March 1928.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It has been the custom of my predecessors, as Honorary President, to take the chair at this meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, or, as I know them better, Dr. Graham's Homes at Kalimpong, and I am glad to have this opportunity of continuing the custom.

I had heard of the Homes and the work that is being done there and I had heard of Dr. Graham. I tried to picture to myself what the Homes were, and what the founder was like. I took the first opportunity that offered of visiting the Homes at Kalimpong, and of making the acquaintance of Dr. Graham. It will, perhaps, suffice if I say that after a long and interesting inspection, I came away with the feeling not only of real pleasure, but of sincere thankfulness that such an admirable and efficient institution was in existence, and to all appearance firmly established and prosperous. I saw there numbers of obviously happy children being given an opportunity of acquiring a knowledge and practical training, which should assure their becoming not only good citizens, but also able to obtain a livelihood, when they went out into the world. I saw the older boys as cadets, and the younger as scouts, and the girls as guides—all of them well trained and efficient in the creed of that splendid educational movement.

I visited the Workers' Club and was specially impressed with the enthusiasm and joy with which every one appeared to be possessed, in their good work. I saw the houses, which were a revelation of order, cleanliness and reasonable comfort, all of which was due to the handy work of the children themselves.

These were my impressions, and I am not exaggerating. I came away with complete satisfaction that here was a work which any one might be proud of, and which could be supported with confidence and real pleasure.

I met Dr. Graham, and found the youngest and most vigorous middle-aged gentleman I had ever met, with the enthusiasm of a boy, the heart of a child and that confidence in success, which comes to one through faith and knowledge, that such a great and humane service could never fail for want of support. I was much impressed by the beautiful Chapel erected to the memory of a very remarkable and truly good lady. It is a fine memorial worthy of the beautiful character of her to commemorate and credit, and gratitude is due to all who have worked so unselfishly towards its completion.

I understand this Committee looks after the interests of the Homes in Calcutta. You are fortunate in having Sir Archy Birkmyre as the Chairman. We meet to-day in the Hostel which he has provided and which is a lasting memorial of his generous interest in the Homes. I am glad to hear that the result of the first year's working of the Hostel has been satisfactory. We all know what a great benefactor and friend Sir Archy has been in

all times of need. You have been equally fortunate in having as President for six years Sir Alexander Murray. This work, I know, has been most genial to one with such a big and generous heart, and his departure from India in the near future is a matter of universal regret. All the thanks that either of these two great men desires is some assurance that the good work shall proceed and prosper.

I am satisfied in my own mind that any assistance Government can give can in every way be thoroughly justified, and that the general public will continue to give their support in this noble cause.

I have listened to the report which has been presented by the Honorary Superintendent with much pleasure. It appears to exhibit a healthy and satisfactory position, upon which I congratulate all concerned. It is merely left to me now—to wish that this Hostel may long fulfil its useful purpose and that the Homes may continue to prosper under the guidance of Dr. Graham.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Y. M. C. A. on 9th March 1928.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to have this opportunity of attending the annual meeting of the Y. M. C. A. in Calcutta and of meeting those responsible for this very important branch of this world wide organization. I was very pleased to accept the position of Patron of the Association in this Presidency.

The record of the work of the Y. M. C. A. in the past, throughout the world—in peace or in war—justifies in my judgment confidence in its general administration and utility. The principles and objects under which it operates are clearly laid down and well understood. They are in every way worthy and sound, and, if closely followed, the organization can be productive of nothing but good.

Your activities will now and then bring you before the public gaze and you must be consequently open to, and prepared for, criticisms, whether it be blame or praise. In India, as elsewhere, you cannot expect to avoid this, but you should be able to offer enough attraction for support and patronage by following the clear cut paths as laid down in accordance with your objects and principles which, if rigidly adhered to, should enable you to withstand successfully any adverse criticisms. I think there is no question that the strength of your position has been gained by proving your usefulness, and keeping clear of any controversial matters :

you can do this by confining yourselves to the primary objects of the Y. M. C. A., and by the help and guidance you have extended towards the establishment of good fellowship and the creation of good citizenship.

I appreciate the difficulties with which you are faced in your work in such a country as India, where you have attempted and to a large degree overcome the difficulties of inter-racial service. Your general report of last year is interesting and satisfactory and I have been much impressed by the statements of the various branches. You have a membership of 2,000 composed of all creeds. The educational work of the Association appears to have been appreciated. I have studied the list of lectures which appear to have been well chosen and the subjects are beyond criticism.

The Physical Education in which I feel a special interest has been taken full advantage of, and it is interesting to note that the play-ground schemes for Calcutta proposed by Mr. Beall are just about to be adopted. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Beall on one or two occasions and I have been informed of the great work which he has done during his many years in Calcutta in connection with Y. M. C. A. work, and I am sorry to hear that he is now returning to Canada. I know that his keenness, enthusiasm and cheery personality would be greatly missed in Calcutta.

I am a great believer in the value of bringing together young people in friendly rivalry in games. It teaches a spirit of good-will and co-operation as no other method can.

I was very pleased to have had the opportunity of meeting, soon after I arrived here, Mr. James and Dr. Datta. Their work in connection with the Y. M. C. A. movement is well known and much appreciated. As long as we have men of their calibre, directing the activities of the Y. M. C. A., I feel certain that your Association will continue to meet a great need and successfully fulfil its mission in Calcutta. I shall continue to watch your work with interest, and anything I can do to further it, will always be a pleasure to me.

You have great opportunities of helping to create and maintain that understanding and good-will between men which is essential for progress in India. I know you will try to do this and I hope you will succeed.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meetings of the St. John Ambulance Association and Red Cross Society (Bengal Branch), on 17th March 1928.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Everyone in England is acquainted with the Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Societies, and I was glad to have an opportunity of appreciating their activities in Bengal when I saw the recent display.

The Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance have been generally recognized as the great volunteer aid institutions and their work in the war definitely established them as of national value; we could not have done without them. But their work in peace is just as valuable. The function of the St. John Ambulance Association has been the instruction of the public in first aid, home nursing, hygiene and sanitation. There is no work more necessary in India, where half the mortality is due to ignorance of these subjects. Your record of work during the last year, during which instruction has been given in first aid to 2,681 persons, is most creditable. I am glad that the value of this form of education is realized by all communities in Bengal, and that it is being given in schools, colleges, railways, jails and tramways, etc.

The Red Cross came to India in 1914 when the war broke out, and worked with the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade in the interest of British and Indian troops. The work which the

great band of women did during the war can never be forgotten. They labour to-day in military and civil hospitals, take particular interest in health welfare and lend aid to the European unemployed in Bengal. They organized the Bengal Baby Week, which I had the pleasure of visiting last week, and which is undoubtedly having good results.

I should like to congratulate you all upon your organization, and the splendid work which has been done and is being done every day, and which deserves every encouragement and support from every quarter.

